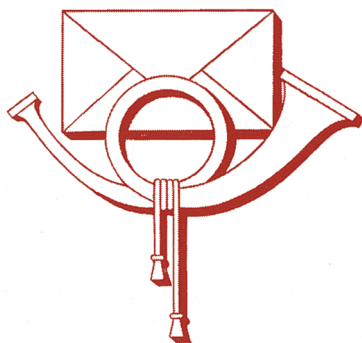


# Postal History Journal



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Ionian Island Letters 1428-1864

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Use of Fractional Value U.S. Postage

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1857 Salt Lake City, Utah to Birmingham, England

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A Quest: Letter to Montecassino, Italy

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Collecting Latin America - Leo J. Harris

# Postal History Journal

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# Fascinating Journeys of Letters:

## Summary of the Postal History of the Ionian Islands to 1864

by Gerasimos M. Vlachos FRPSL

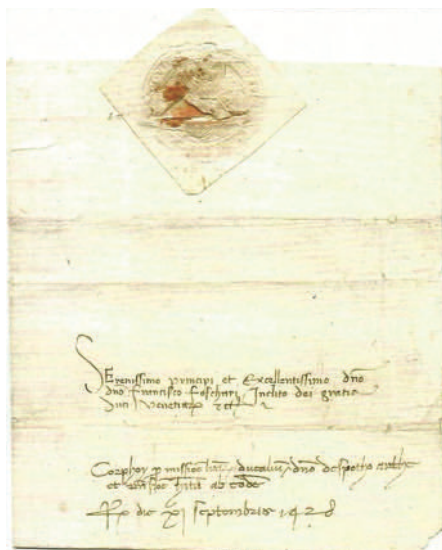
### Background: Circumstances and Initial Practices

Researchers and collectors interested in very early European letters are faced with the obstacle of reading manuscripts primarily in Latin and subsequently in the numerous languages spoken all over the continent. But the excitement of examining a letter's address panel and seals, and reading the text and signature, is to come as close as we can to the essence of history. Voyages of such written words were perilous – both because of the physical elements and human interception at sea and on land. The Ionian Islands in the middle of the Mediterranean were privileged in remaining outside the grasp of the stagnant Ottoman way of life that prevailed for several centuries over East-Southeast Europe. But, as formerly part of the medieval Roman-Hellenic (Byzantine) Empire, the Islands (the traditional seven: Corfu, Paxos, Lefkada, Ithaca, Cephalonia, Zante, Cerigo), were easy prey to the appetite of western adventurers who created short-lived fiefdoms. Beginning gradually in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and then firmly from around 1500 the Islands were held by the Venetians. In 1797 these floating paradises were added to the Napoleonic conquests. Over two years, with an occasional improbable Russo-Turkish intervention, the locals created their first independent Hellenic Republic named *Respublica Septinsularis* - *Επάνηρος Πολιτεία* (Septinsular Republic) in March 1800.

The Republic was recognized by the Great Powers of the time, but the French returned (1807) and soon were replaced by the British (1809) who mostly respected the administrative structure inherited by the Venetians and the Septinsular Republic. The islanders continued to struggle for their freedom and were finally united with the other Hellenes in Greece in 1864. Their postal facilities were necessarily influenced by historical events and subject to existing means of communication. The first organized Post Office was operated by the Septinsular Republic from 1803 creating links among the Islands and with the continent.

Exchange of correspondence, almost entirely official and commercial, had been happening for four previous centuries. The earliest letter known to me from the Ionian Islands is from Lorenzo Venier, Baillie (*Bailo*) and Governor (*Capitano*) of Corfu, dated August 22, 1428 addressed to Francesco Foscari, Doge of Venice from 1423 to 1457, and delivered to him on September 11 (see Figure 1). This very short folded letter in Latin is significant to the history of communications as it refers to the dispatch of copied letters exchanged with the Doge, sent to and received from the Despot of Arta (Epirus), Charles A. Tocco. The translated address panel reads: *To the Most Serene and Excellent Prince, Francesco Foscari, by the grace of God the noble Doge of Venice* etc. It was endorsed at Venice: *From Corfu, for the dispatch of the Doge's letter to the Lord Despot of Arta, and the dispatch received from him.* The sender writes to the Doge: *...as your Serenity personally commanded I forwarded them separately, one after the other, to the said Lord Despot.*<sup>1</sup> This is clear evidence of the established rule at that time of sending duplicate letters for safety purposes. Another earlier private commercial letter of 1419 is known addressed to Alexandria but was sent from Candia and is without any mention of duplicate dispatch.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1: Earliest known letter from the Ionian Islands 1428, from Corfu to Venice. This letter is without postal directions or markings since it was entrusted to the master of one of the *galeas romaniae* – the Venetian commercial ships regularly connecting Venice with the medieval states of the Eastern Mediterranean that had been broken up in fiefdoms, commonly known then as *Ρωμανία* (*Romaniae*), formerly parts of the Byzantine Empire.



The practice of duplicate and sometimes triplicate letters was well established even among lay people as is seen from two identical private folded letters in Italian sent from Corfu dated February 11, 1472 from Giovanni Venerio to his brother Jeronimo in Venice. These are also without postal directions or marks but were sent by different means of dispatch. Both arrived and were delivered safely on March 2, 1472 as per handwritten inscriptions on the covers. At that time correspondence from Corfu reached Venice either directly by sea or via Otranto-Naples-Rome.<sup>3</sup> It seems therefore that, as both letters were delivered on the same day, they had been entrusted to different persons on the same voyage.

### The Years of Trust

Almost all the folded letters up to and including the 18<sup>th</sup> century addressed to or coming from the Ionian Islands were either commercial or from military and administrative authorities, with no postal directions and markings (apart from numerous fakes appearing in the market from the 1930s).<sup>4</sup> Sometimes there were last minute short notes on the cover about bad weather encountered such as... *through great storms... mizzen anchor broken by the storm*<sup>5</sup> or, abbreviated invocations to God for the protection of the bearer, mariner, or passenger, such as : *C D S* (*Che Dio Salvi*) or *D L S* (*Dio Lo Salvi*) etc. A relatively large number - hundreds in fact - with these or similar abbreviations were sent during the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the *Caragiani*<sup>6</sup> firm in Venice, either from their partners in Corfu or from commercial centers all around the Eastern basin of Mediterranean. Other letters were sent from Zante and Cephalonia to Venice and/or London by exporters of currants, the staple produce of these Islands. Such letters sometimes mention the forwarder in Venice and bear Bishop Marks applied on arrival. An example is one dated Zante May 14, 1686 via Venice June 21, 1686 - forwarder *W<sup>ms</sup>* - with an early Bishop Mark. Forwarders in Cephalonia, Corfu, Zante and Malta were also involved in the Ionian correspondence.<sup>7</sup> Letters originating from Corfu and addressed to Venice or vice-versa during the 18<sup>th</sup> century usually bear on the cover the name of the ship's master to whom the letters were entrusted, the type or the nationality of the vessel, and/or a note about the wrapping of the letter.



Figure 2: "Map of the Ionian Islands and Malta compiled from surveys & original documents in the colonial office, the ordnance department &c by John Arrowsmith. (with) Map of the Maltese Islands from actual survey. (with) inset map of Cerigo (with) inset map of sea and land routes from England to Alexandria. London, Pubd. 8th August 1842, by John Arrowsmith, 10 Soho Square." Plate from a World Atlas, 1844. [David Rumsey Historical Map Collection]

### Routes and Rates

Postal history has been primarily concerned with the identification of the routes followed, the rates charged, and the markings affixed,<sup>8</sup> having always in mind the time required for the transportation.

The first officially established route for mail transport in the Ionian Islands was from Corfu to the nearest European continental port of Otranto.<sup>9</sup> Operation started at



the time of the Septinsular Republic from January 1, 1803. Sailing schedules called for fortnightly visits by two barquets, coming and going, carrying passengers, cargo, and all kind of government papers and private correspondence, particularly that of merchants.<sup>10</sup> The contact with Otranto was more or less kept steady with short interruptions for the next few years, subject mostly to the Napoleonic expeditions to Apulia. Routes were expanded with scheduled routes to Ancona, Trieste, Venice, and Malta with the Austrian Lloyd, the British packets, and the Ionian ships calling at the islands. In addition, boats under a variety of flags traded in and out of the Ionian ports and carried mail as well. The only difference was that all such mail had to be declared and routed through the Corfu Post Office for payment of dues.<sup>11</sup>

The Austrian Consul in Corfu in 1845 compared the cost of sending a half ounce letter to London by three different routes. Expressed in sterling, the postage was 1/3 via Malta and Gibraltar, 1/4 via Ancona, Paris and Calais and 1/8 Via Trieste and Innsbruck. He commented that the Malta route was the cheapest, but also the slowest. The Ancona route was nearly as cheap, but the Pontifical post was unreliable. Thus most mail to the United Kingdom went by the Trieste route, which was speedy and efficient.<sup>12</sup>

Some letters were chasing the addressee. If he had left for a voyage and nobody else was authorized to take delivery on his behalf, the diligent postman wrote the new place of the letter's destination on the cover which might also bear additional handstamps of the route followed. If by chance an envelope was rescued after an accident at sea during transportation, some remnants of markings indicating rate and route could survive. It is usual for the rescuing authorities on dispatching the rescued cover to its destination to add on the saved envelope a handstamp with the date of recovery and the change of route affected.

Items sent by post in the Ionian Islands during the 19<sup>th</sup> century include the dispatch of small linen bags with gold or silver coins as a remittance to the recipient. This was specifically provided for by the *Progetto Postale* of September 7, 1803.<sup>13</sup> Banking services and therefore remittances of money via the Ionian Bank Ltd. (operating in the islands since 1839) was restricted to the main islands Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante.<sup>14</sup> A linen bag with the coins inside was secured both with fastening cord and Spanish wax seals of the sender, and it was passed first from the post office of dispatch for prepayment of the fees and the application of the Post Office handstamp. It was then either sent inside the mail bag for delivery to the post office of destination or handed over to the master of the ship calling at the island of destination, at the risk of the sender, for delivery to the addressee. Such a *gruppo di denaro* survived from Corfu addressed to the well-known commercial firm of olive oil and currants producers/exporters *Petros Stamatopoulos Bross.* in Santa Maura, probably sent during the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Postal Services to Villages**

The writer has an interest in folded letters addressed to inhabitants of villages because of the rarity of such items. None are known to me before 1864, apart from those in Cephalonia addressed to inhabitants of villages situated a long way by foot from the only post office in Argostoli.<sup>15</sup> A number of them survive from the period 1821-1844 at the Historical Public Archives of Argostoli. These were obviously not delivered to recipients and were deposited by the Post Office at the Archives at an unknown date in the past.<sup>16</sup> Others have appeared from time to time in the open market during the last 30

to 40 years. Some of them bear handwritten notes by the Argostoli Post Office about the method of their handling. There were no postmen traveling to the villages, some of them at a distance of 30 to 40 kilometers from Argostoli. It seems, therefore, that a number of the letters were delivered at the Post Office in Argostoli to neighbors of the recipients, good Samaritans, traveling to Argostoli and visiting the post office. The Post Office was either notifying the recipient through these Samaritans, or delivering the letter to those who were able to produce sufficient evidence enabling them to collect letters on behalf of the addressee. Such letters bear the inscription *avertito* in Italian, i.e. notified, and the recipient had to collect them. Others bear the word *recapito*, i.e. to be passed to another name who was to collect it on behalf of the recipient. More frequently the word *rifiutata*,<sup>17</sup> i.e. refused, is found. According to the still surviving word of mouth tradition, the poverty of recipients was such that they were unable to pay the postal charge of 1 or 2 gazettes (about one or two farthings) attached to the delivery of letters. Such letters were usually sent from family members, emigrant workers on the nearby Greek mainland. There was an understanding between the emigrant and his family for a certain small sign to be written by the sender on the cover denoting that everything was going well at his/her end. The recipient had a look at the cover at the post office desk and, seeing that the secret sign/message was there, refused delivery and saved the cost.

### Sanitation Arrangements

Another feature connected with folded letters of this period is the trace of *Sanita* interference. Not only were specific seals applied but also various methods were used to make sure that these paper items were properly cleaned with either vinegar, or slits and fumigation, in order to lose their possible contagious character.<sup>18</sup> If a letter originated from the usually infested areas of the nearby Ottoman Empire, the rules for sanitation were strictly applied. Serious penalties were threatened, and imposed, by almost all Post Office regulations. Sometimes heavy charring of the cover is apparent. All these markings have been reported by Meyers and other eminent writers.<sup>19</sup>

It seems that these Sanitation procedures in the Ionian Islands surprised Joseph Cartwright who pictured them in two out of his 12 aquatint drawings (London 1819) dedicated to the Lord High Commissioner of the islands, Sir Thomas Maitland. The first, showing fumigation of letters at the Santa Maura (Lefkada) Sanita Station has often been reproduced. The second, probably not well understood and ignored, depicts the delivery of a letter by a boatman in a dinghy under a yellow flag approaching the Sanita at Ithaca port where an official is clearly seen using a long tong to pick up the letter (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: Aquatint by Joseph Cartwright from Views of the Ionian Islands, 1819, of a letter being delivered by ship's boat, and received with tongs to avoid infection (see inset).

This is done under the supervision of a cautious armed “red jacket” and the impressive presence in the background of the 74-gun British frigate *Albion*. Heavy dark traces of the fumigation from the firm grasp of the tong are quite frequent, until about the third decade of 19<sup>th</sup> century on Ionian folded letters, destroying the clarity of any markings used on the cover.

### The Imperial French (1807-1814)

The French Post Office followed in the steps of the Septinsular Republic and was careful in handstamping their official letters sent to the Ionian Islands, usually via Otranto, affixing among others their oblong boxed *Bureau d’Otrande port payé* handstamp under the seal of their *Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies (Ive Division)* and the double ring handstamp with the Imperial Eagle. An example is a letter from the French Maritime Ministry of August 19, 1813 from Paris to Corfu addressed to *Le Commissaire Imperial des Isles Ioniennes* who that time (1810-1814) was Mathieu de Lesseps (1714 -1832), father of Ferdinand who was involved in the opening of Suez Canal years later. Mathieu addressed a letter dated December 16, 1813 to *Monsieur L’administrateur L’occal de Lisle de Corfou* (sic) without any handstamps, but with his own signature as the sender on the cover: *Le Colonel Lesseps*. He was complaining about expenses incurred and invoked orders of the Emperor for their control. The letter has a wafer seal and there were no postal charges. Obviously it was sent and delivered by a messenger.<sup>20</sup>

### The British Protection

The Post Office was exemplary at maintaining the initial creative lines of the Septinsular Republic arrangements. Printed vouchers for various services were in use facilitating the handling of the mail as described by Zaphiriou.<sup>21</sup> There also exist very early statistical tables accompanied by necessary comments on letters, parcels etc. received and dispatched every day together with their charges as compiled by the Post Office in Santa Maura (Lefkada) from March 1815 to March 1816.<sup>22</sup> Rare printed statements of letters received from abroad (*Statino di Lettere d’Estero*) are known, such as *No 175* from Corfu dated March 23, 1848 to Ithaca. The form is addressed to the Deputy Master of the Post whose surname is handwritten, faint and illegible. It is signed by the Master of the Post in Corfu *N. Polimerry*. It accompanied three letters not exceeding a half ounce from Trieste which were charged 5/1.5 and two letters not exceeding a half ounce from Trieste which were not subject to charge from abroad so were charged with 6 pence only.

Thus the total to be collected was 5/ 7.5. On the reverse of the printed form is the dispatch oval handstamp of Corfu dated April 12, 1848 (i.e. the return handstamp of the *Statino*) and beneath this an acknowledgment of the collected charges sent to Corfu. (*Ho ricevuto l’ammontare del presente Statino*) signed: *N. Polimerry M<sup>ro</sup> di Posta*.<sup>23</sup>

Figure 4: Foreign letter form No. 175 Corfu to Ithaca March 23, 1848.



Increased attention to the operation of the Post Office in Corfu is apparent during the first British military administration of the Islands up to 1817. There are letters from this period with the signature or the initial Z of the Director of Corfu Post Office - D. Zervos - handwritten on the cover. Two such covers sent to the same address in Southwell, Nottinghamshire, England were charged with 3/3d postage. They are double sheet letters dated September 13, 1814 and August 4, 1815.

### Routes

It is really fascinating to trace the routes followed by folded letters traveling from eastern to western Europe or vice versa that connected one way or the other with the Ionian Islands, including touch and go and/or intervening forwarders. Some examples follow:

a) Taganrog May 17, 1850 to Santa Maura. This is a commercial letter in Greek addressed in Russian and Italian to the merchant firm of *Stamatopoulos* in Santa Maura. The cover is inscribed *via Trieste per Corfu and Santa Maura col vapore Austriaco*. It traveled instead to Odessa paying 10 rubles and 2 kopeks franco. From Odessa to Constantinople-Corfu-S<sup>ta</sup> Maura it was charged with 12/2 kreuzer, then from Corfu 10d. (Lloyd) and 3d (Ionian) charge to S<sup>ta</sup> Maura. Total 1/ 11p.

b) Balaclava June 5, 1855 to Zante, arrived June 20, 1855 (via Corfu). A small envelope obviously from a high ranking British officer serving with the Crimean War expeditionary forces and addressed to a Captain of Royal Engineers serving at Zante. It was delivered to the Balaclava British Army Post Office as per a handstamp of *JU(NE)* [ 5?] 1855. It had traveled either by a British steamer or by a weekly Messageries ship from Kamiesh to Constantinople and from there by an Austrian packet boat to Corfu as shown by a double ring handstamp reading CORFU 17 JU - no year - and then by a local steamer to Zante as shown by a double ring handstamp *ZAKYNΘΟΣ* 20 IOYN 1855. A P.S. on the back side of the envelope's flap notes an interesting current event of the time, as follows: *The submarine E.T (Eastern Telegraph) wire is cut between this & Varna office since 8 a.m. yesterday 'tis now past 6 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> June 55 and not repaired, hope it has not been cut maliciously. French Line across Danube was cut too.* The incident was reported and commented in *The Times* of June 7, 1855.

c) Corfu October 1, 1856 to Galatz arrived on November 10, 1856. Commercial letter with handstamp CORFU 1 OTT - no year - and verso TRIEST 4/10 Früh - Galatz 11 Oct. Rates: faint 3d (Ionian charge - tariff of May 21, 1845), plus 9 (kreuzer, of German/Austrian Union) with black pencil and 6 1/4 both struck out with a diagonal red pencil line. Over them with ink: 9 (Kr.) Corfu-Trieste Lloyd charge, plus 9 (Kr.) Trieste to the Austrian border, plus 9 (Kr.) Austrian border to Galatz. An additional *W9* with red pencil probably denotes "weiter franco 9 Kreuzer" for charges due to the Austrian P.O.

### Interesting Postal Markings

It is often a cumbersome, but necessary, process to reconstruct the routes traveled by and rates charged for letters to the Ionian Islands. This is made even more difficult by blurred or unreadable postal markings. Some letters made especially exciting journeys following the lines of rapidly developing communications links across Europe due to the expansion of steam ship transportation. A couple of such extraordinary letters follow:

Figure 5: Danesfort (Ireland) March 10, 1832 to Cefalonia (*Mediterranean*) April 17, 1832. Handwritten directions of the sender on the cover: *Via France and Italy*. (Great Britain forgotten?) Rates: 1/1d prepaid by the sender until Naples. Paid by the happy recipient 6d for the voyage from Naples to Corfu and 3d for the leg from Corfu to Cefalonia. The cover was disinfected and has slits from fumigation and is charged.



Figure 5: Handstamps: 1. Cork 13.3.1832; 2. Mid Day Mail diligence Cork- Dublin; 3. PAID MR 14 1832 of Dublin; 4. A PAID 16 MR 16 1832 of London; 5. London cds F... (illegible); 6. ANGLETERRE of Le Havre (Van der Linden no.165); 7. PONT BEAUVOISIN entering the Kingdom of Sardinia; 8. CORRISP<sup>ca</sup> ESTERA DA GENOVA of Pisa; 9. NAP 1832 4 APR of Naples; 10. A(mministrazione) G(enerale) D(ella) P(osta) wicker seal of Naples; 11. CORFU 14 APRILE 1832 scroll; 12. OFFICIO DELLA POSTA GENERALE –CORFU small; 13. CEFALONIA 17 APRILE 1832 scroll.

Figure 6: A labyrinthine route by rail was followed in Germany and Austria according to handstamps on the cover: 1. The Hague June 7, 1851; 2. Oberhausen June 8; 3. Deutz–Minden June 8; 4. Berlin–Minden June 9; 5. Breslau–Myslowitz June 10; 6. Cosel–Oderberg June 10; 7. Vienna June 11; 8. with stagecoach to Trieste June 13; 9. Corfu June 28, 1851; 10. Malta arrival July 9, 1851. Rates: 10 1/2 Dfl. franco Trieste, 9 (deleted), 10 (Kr. Austrian Lloyd) Triest-Corfu and 1 1/2 Corfu-Malta.



Figure 6: The Hague (Netherlands) June 7, 1851 to Malta July 9, 1851. Folded cover traveled from The Hague on the railway system of Central Europe operated by the German Federation and Austria. It reached Trieste on June 13, 1851 in six days and remained there, waiting for transportation to Malta before finally being sent via Corfu, where it seems to have arrived not earlier than June 28, 1851; therefore 15 days of rest at Trieste. It seems that the delay at Corfu did not exceed two or three days because of the regular line of Malta packets connecting the Ionian Islands with Malta as of 1813, replaced for only six years by the British packets from 1832 to 1838.<sup>24</sup> One of these packets probably picked up the letter around July 3 to 5 and delivered it in Malta on July 9, 1851. The recipient was the Consul of the Netherlands in Malta. He wrote a memorandum dated July 9, 1851 remarking on the extraordinary delay incurred by this route and arguing that the established quicker route via France and Marseille with the British steamer *Banshee* should have been adopted instead. He added that *Banshee* arrived in Malta on the June 12 bringing letters from London in 4 days & 16 hours. The letter could have been sent by any of the direct French Government steamers in 6 days. His memorandum accompanied the cover when it was auctioned. This is rather exceptional.

### Unique Handstamps

I would refer only to those I have examined among a couple of thousand of Ionian folded letters dated up to 1864. On the basis of this research the following handstamps appear to be unique in the market:

a) The very first Ionian Islands handstamp is a double ring *POSTA SETTINSULARE CORFU* applied in black as a negative of the original.

The original was introduced and used only in Corfu on arrival of letters perhaps as early as June 1804.<sup>25</sup> It was struck on foreign mail addressed to or transiting from Corfu.<sup>26</sup> However, the black negative double ring was officially used in Corfu on a folded letter sent from Catalonia with the black handstamp of Barcelona on the front (Figure 7), with the exact date unknown but probably in May 1804. It is addressed in Spanish to the *Censor General de la Repub<sup>ca</sup> Set/lare Siete Islas por Liorna* (i.e. via Leghorn-Livorno) to Corfu. It traveled by coach as per the circular red handstamp *ROCA* (reverse side Figure 7a), used by the stagecoach firm of *Buonavventura Roca*. It was delivered to Stamati Rodocanachi as Consular Agent of the Septinsular Republic in Genoa on May 19, 1804. He dispatched the letter, with an illegible note on the flap. There is no indication as to how it reached Corfu



Figure 7: Letter, May 1804, from Barcelona ("B/CATALUNA" vvia Livorno to Corfu, addressed to the Ionian Islands Chief Censor.





*CORFÙ*, with accent on Ù, is also listed by Vlastos for the period 1810-1813. This marking is not registered by Van der Linden. An application in black of this handstamp is on an letter from Corfu dated January 22, 1816 to Naples, described in detail by Zaphiriou.<sup>29</sup>

c) The oval *AGENCIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO – CERIGO* handstamp was discovered initially by Zaphiriou at the Cerigo Archives on a deposition of Cavallini dated January 5/17, 1857 at the Commercial Court, registered on January 20, 1857, declaring that he was appointed Austrian Lloyd Agent at San Nicolò in Avlemona (Cerigo). It is signed by him and his signature is accompanied by the oval seal. I discovered a copy of this handstamp later applied on a commercial letter from Cerigo dated December 6, 1858 addressed to Trieste with the single ring *TRIEST 19/12 Früh* verso and charged 15 Kreuzer. Struck on the reverse is the oval handstamp of Lloyds Agency in oily green of Cerigo. This marking is heavily covered by a Trieste black handstamp reading: *Let<sup>a</sup> arr<sup>ta</sup> per mare.* (Figure 8.) But there is also a P.S. in the text of the letter written and signed by A. Cavallini himself. He obviously wrote the P.S. and applied the *CERIGO* handstamp of his Agency on the panel before delivering the letter to the Lloyd steamship that was on her regular return route via Syria to Cerigo, other Ionian Islands, and finally Trieste. This handstamp is not recorded by Tchilinghirian or del Bianco. Mr. del Bianco kindly replied to my enquiry: *Non e conosciuta in periodo ionico alcuna lettera che possa essere attribuita ad una attivita postale autonoma (attiva o passiva) dell' agenzia Lloydiana di Cerigo.* He thus confirmed the existence of the Agency there as per entries in his monumental work on Lloyd Austriaco.<sup>30</sup>



Figure 9: 1858 Cerigo oval handstamp in green of Lloyds Agency; Trieste straightline arrival handstamp in black.

d) The unique REGISTERED handstamp struck in red appeared on an official envelope sold in the open market a decade ago, as reproduced in Figure 10. It was applied twice to the reverse of an envelope sent from the Lord High Commissioner's Office, i.e. the *Commissariat* of the Ionian Islands at Corfu, as handwritten at the lower left angle, to G. Balbis Esq., *Director of Police, Paxos.* ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE is printed on the front of the envelope in black. The British escutcheon is printed in red on the back. The envelope is firmly closed and secured with three red Spanish wax Commissariat seals affixed to the back. The valeur déclarée of £15 is handwritten at the upper left corner



of the envelope. This was probably the amount enclosed and sent to the highly placed addressee. There was no letter to let us know the purpose of the remittance. The money was necessarily sent by post as the Ionian Bank Ltd. never had a branch or agent on the very small island of Paxos. The envelope went through the Corfu Post Office which applied to the reverse the CORFU double ring 13 MAG and an oval FRANCA handstamp, both in bluish green. A handwritten “2 pence” is clear, though the normal rate from Corfu to Paxo was 1d. On the reverse is the PAXO type C scroll blurred with unreadable date. On the basis of research by Zaphiriou the REGISTERED handstamp was applied in England and the letter sent to Corfu on February 27, 1863. This marking does not appear in any other correspondence seen by Zaphiriou.<sup>31</sup> I consider that either for some reason the handstamp was put aside by the Commissariat and not sent to the Corfu Post Office in time for use, or that the unique use of the REGISTERED handstamp and dispatch of the envelope from Corfu was on May 13, 1864, just prior to the official annexation of



Figure 10: 1863, unique registered handstamp in red, Corfu to Paxos, on a letter containing money. At right, the back with wax seals of the Lord High Commissioner's Office.



the Ionian Islands on the May 21, 1864. This was the last month of the Commissariat's function in the Islands and this example is up to now the only one known. It is applied to an official envelope from a high official and is also unique as a registered cover used for such a short journey to the adjacent Paxos island.

### Tariffs

Handwritten charges on the cover of folded letters were fixed on the basis of detailed tariffs printed in large-sized posters in Italian or Greek and Italian by the governing authorities each time such tariffs changed:

- Corfu: October 5, 1803 (in Italian) by the Postal Commission of Septinsular Republic with the operating Regulation of the Post Office including tariffs.
- Zante: September 1, 1813 (in Italian) Proclamation stating postal charges. Signed by Lt. Gen. James Campbell, Commander in Chief of British Forces.
- Zante: December 1, 1813 in Greek and Italian with postal charges and other

regulations. Signed by D. Zervos, Director of the General Post Office.

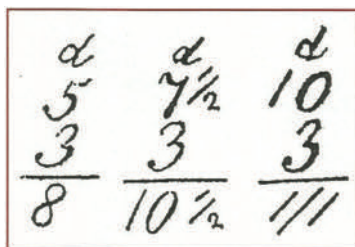
- d) Corfu February 17, 1815 Proclamation in Greek and Italian with extensive tariff provisions. Signed by Lt. Gen. Campbell as well.

All of these together with subsequent ones have been published either by Zaphiriou or by the Corfu Reading Society in their commemorative volume for the 200 years of the Septinsular Post Office in 2003. A complete and detailed presentation of charges according to weight and destination of letters and other relevant material covering the British Protection period has been written by O.D. Cumming.<sup>32</sup>

### Mysterious Handstamps

As a rule, all postal charges were handwritten by Post Office personnel applying tariffs required for each and every folded letter. However, some years ago, much to the surprise of collectors, auctions took place for letters on which the charges had been applied using handstamps in black, greenish or red. O.D. Cumming described these in a very detailed comprehensive article.<sup>33</sup> A total of nine are known to me dated from November 4, 1847 until February 1, 1851. The handstamps encountered are as follows: d5 plus 3 = 8, d7 1/2 plus 3 = 10 1/2 and d10 plus 3 = 11. Each one is impressed on letters as per the table of O.D. Cumming which follows (Figure 11). Clearly the figure “3” in all three types is the three pence Ionian charge implying that none weighed more than a 1/2 ounce.<sup>34</sup> The figures of 5, 7 1/2 and 10 on top of each fraction represent the different Lloyd Austriaco charge depending on the route followed by the letter as per O.D. Cumming’s exhaustive research.

I presume that since all these handstamps were seen on letters from the Corfu Post Office their availability and use were restricted to that office for about 40 months. There is no doubt that all these no longer “mysterious” handstamps were produced in the islands by accomplished engravers, together with other handstamps used (with the exception of those mentioned by Zaphiriou.<sup>35</sup>)



|    |        |     |
|----|--------|-----|
| d5 | d7 1/2 | d10 |
| 3  | 3      | 3   |
| 8  | 10 1/2 | 11  |

Figure 11: Cumming’s chart of rates appearing as handstamp markings from Corfu.

### Clandestine Transportation of Letters

In almost all Ionian Post Office proclamations there is a standard provision prohibiting transportation of letters outside the official channels of established and operating post offices. The authorities wished to secure a firm and safe operation of the service and to this end cost/benefit concerns influenced their actions. They could not sustain the free transfer of correspondence from or to the inhabitants of the Ionian Islands because, after all, the Post Office was a costly service for the Treasury. Illegal transportation was therefore penalized heavily. Letters were confiscated and a penalty of several silver Tallari was immediately demanded. Parcels of suspicious nature and even the personal papers and the purses of travelers were opened and examined. For instance, Buchon who arrived at Zante on August 15, 1841 was the victim of a such a search. He protested and later on wrote: *On va jusqu’ a chercher dans les portefeuilles et parmi les papiers, pour savoir si on ne trouvera pas quelque lettre, tant le gouvernement de sir Howard Douglas a introduit l’esprit inquisitorial et persecuteur.*<sup>36</sup> Possibly Buchon as a French subject was considered particularly likely to be carrying not only smuggled letters but publications that might

be ... *tending to pervert the Public mind and the tranquillity of the State* as per Act VIII - May 1840 of the Ionian Parliament.

In spite of such searches, writers agree that clandestine transportation was widely used. An indication could be deduced by comparing letters in and out of Santa Maura 1815-1816. We see that a much greater number of letters were received from the nearby Greek mainland addressed to inhabitants, although not necessarily delivered, than were sent. Apart from the common illiteracy of the islanders, a great number of letters received at the Santa Maura Post Office from the Greek mainland, were sent from the emigrants working there to this adjacent area. I presume that many were refused by the penniless recipient members of the family who invented ways to send letters to the emigrants probably with the small local fishing boats outside the Post Office channels.

Another example of clandestine dispatch is a personal letter dropped at the mail box kept on board the Austrian Lloyd steamship at the Port of Corfu on May 22, 1858 during her voyage from Alexandria to Trieste. The Trieste-Corfu-Alexandria route was served by the Austrian Lloyd line with monthly (1848-1850), bimonthly (1851-1860) and weekly (1861-1867) itineraries. Letters were to be conveyed normally through the Ionian Post Office for payment of the charges including the Ionian charges and then delivered to the Austrian Lloyd steamship calling at Corfu for Alexandria or arriving from Alexandria via Corfu for Trieste. In this case the sender, a resident of Corfu, wrote to his brother in Trieste and by dropping the letter in the mail box on board the Lloyd ship avoided the Ionian charge. Upon arrival at Trieste the local Post Office affixed the single ring black *TRIEST 24.5.1858* on the front, the black *COL VAPORE D'ALESSANDRIA* on the reverse and collected 9 Kreuzer (Austrian Lloyd charge) only upon delivery to the addressee. Del Bianco kindly informed me that three other similar clandestinely forwarded letters from Corfu to Trieste are known.

### **Registered Letters**

This is another matter which remains obscure as information available from the writers and the available correspondence is not sufficient. There are certain inscriptions on the cover of several letters, particularly during the period 1830 -1864 but there is no clear mention on them that the letters are to be sent registered, i.e. with delivery to the addressee requiring his signature. No official document exists mentioning the date that registration of mail was introduced by the Ionian postal services although small sized printed forms, to be completed by the sender and the recipient acknowledging registered dispatch and delivery, are available from 1854.<sup>37</sup>

### **Activities Increasing Mail Volume**

Increased communication in writing was another characteristic of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which led to the invention of adhesive stamps for the easier collection of the charges from the sender and not from the addressee, the latter being a victim of prolific letter writers. Sir Walter Scott grumbled that his fan mail cost him £150 a year.<sup>38</sup> What perhaps is not completely realized is that the expanding written fantasies of romantic, adventurous, or myth-loving educated ladies and gentlemen of the time - even scientists - resulted in the publication of vast numbers of books, newspapers and all kind of other printed material which was also accompanied by a dramatic increase of correspondence all around the world.

Women correspondents, especially, cultivated tiny handwriting and "cross-wrote"

their letters, that is, turned them upside down or sideways and wrote in the spaces, to save paper, weight, and so postage. The accent was always on economy. Several such letters of 1835-1837 written by a young British Army officer serving in Corfu to his sister in Scotland are known.

Commerce was another fundamental activity increasing mail volume with millions of paper documents exchanged among those involved, i.e., producers, merchants, representatives, brokers, and intermediaries of all kind including shipping agents.

As an indication of the activity of those very substantial cases of increased mail volume, I thought it would be useful to show the work desk of a distinguished shipping agent in Argostoli at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 12). The desk is similar to the desk top screen of a modern personal computer. There are 40 different archival “files” each one for a different type of commercial, banking, or shipping document. These obviously refer to correspondence connected with the production and export/import of goods including relative services from or to the island of Cephalonia. Certainly the user had and was

relying on efficient service of the post office for his extensive communications. Charalambos Forestis was not alone. There were similar shipping agents at the ports of all the main islands. Their names and activities can be discovered by research at the local historical archives.

*Figure 12: Υπόμνημα κάτω από την εικόνα του Cabinet with pigeon holes and drawers in use at the Shipping Agency of Charalambos Forestis operating in Argostoli (Cephalonia) from circa 1875 to 1915. All drawers were labeled indicating contents: Charter Parties - Manifests - Import and Export Lists - Acc<sup>ts</sup> Current, Freight Av<sup>ge</sup>, Insurance*



*Accounts - Blank Bills of Lading, Bills of Exchange - Seconds of Exchange Bills, Invoices, Notes of Weights - Policies of Insurance - Law Papers - Examination of qualities and condition of produce and Reports - Brokers' Lists of Sales - Orders, Contracts - Ships protests, Affidavits, Average papers etc. - List of daily Conveyances - Bills of Lading Inwards & Outwards- Anglo-Ionian Steam Navigation Co and Receipts. Five pigeon holes were labeled : Liverpool, London, Corfu, Patras and Zante for the papers addressed or originating from these places. The labels provide evidence of the diversification and extent of activities of a shipping agency in the flourishing communication network of the Ionian Islands at that time.*

## Acknowledgments

Research on routes, handstamps and rates on envelopes or covers of folded letters is an exciting adventure. Varying customs and practices of the time can create both headaches and immense satisfaction. I hope that this very short summary of the postal history of the Ionian Islands up to 1864 will make collectors more acquainted with the area and the relative historical developments influencing the communications of that time.

I consider it my duty and pleasure to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance granted to my demanding enquiries in the past by the late D. Zaphiriou, the late O.D. Cumming (I recall our long discussion sessions at his residence in Ashmead, Devon, U.K.). I thank Mr. Umberto del Bianco for his valuable written advice about Trieste. To my venerable good friend Andy (Damian) Andronicos I am indebted not only for consultations in London and in Athens but also for delivering to me a couple of his valuable Ionian Island letters and other relevant material. Mr. W. Achterberg of Geneva and others entrusted me with the photocopying of their collections. I am also much obliged to the reputable auction houses of Messrs. Karamitsos, Corinphila, Cavendish, Feldman, Harmers and others who assisted by supplying photocopies of interesting items enabling me to explore the ground with the signatures of time.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> O.D.Cumming, "Extract, translation and notes" in *Postal History* 277/1996 pp.8 and 30.
- <sup>2</sup> Franco Rigo, *La Galea, Storia Postale Maritima dal XIV al XVII secolo*. Elzeviro, Padova 2007, p.158.
- <sup>3</sup> Luciano de Zanche, « Tra Constantinopoli e Venezia – Dispacci di Stato e lettere di mercanti dal Basso Medioevo alla caduta della Serenissima. » *Quaderni di Storia Postale*, No.25 Dicembre 2000, pp.24-25.
- <sup>4</sup> Paolo Vollmeier, *Forged Pre-Adhesive Postmarks of the Old Italian States, especially the territory of Venice*, Postal History Society, New York 1979. Adriano Cattani, *Catalogo dei Bolli Postali della Repubblica di Venezia*, Padova. 1984.
- <sup>5</sup> Added on the cover of a letter from Corfu February 24, 1483 to Marco Bembo, Venice, ... *Sea datta suxo la Riva dall charbon* i.e. to be delivered under the Riva del Carbone.
- <sup>6</sup> Greeks originating from Janina (Epirus) with members of their family, partners in Corfu and correspondence known in the market and at the Venetian archives covering the whole 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- <sup>7</sup> Dimitri P. Zaphiriou, *Postal History of the Ionian Islands 1386-1864*, 1987, p.15, 16. Forwarders W(illiam)s. listed in Kenneth Rowe, *The Postal History and Markings of the Forwarding Agents*, Hartmann New York, 1996, p.250. Listing also forwarders in Cephalonia p.82, Corfu 89, Zante 254 and Malta 162.
- <sup>8</sup> Colin Tabeart, *Robertson Revisited – A study of the Maritime Postal Markings of the British Isles based on the work of Alan W.Robertson*. Limassol, James Bendon, 1997, Preface pp. ix-xi.
- <sup>9</sup> Adriano Cattani : "Da Corfù per la via d'Otranto" *Bolletino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale* No. 23, 1981 pp.134-139.
- <sup>10</sup> G.M. Vlachos, "The mail vessels of the Septinsular Republic and the shipowner Felice di Leo", *Bulletin of Corfu Reading Society*, no.26/2004, pp. 155-160.
- <sup>11</sup> Zaphiriou, p. 75 and extensively in pp. 97-198.
- <sup>12</sup> O. D. Cumming, "The United States of the Ionian Islands", *Postal History* no.246/1988, p.35, and G.M.Vlachos: "Routes and Rates United Kingdom-Ionian Islands 1819-1865. An outline according to the British Post Office Notices" *Philotelia* 582/1997 pp.28-44, 583/1997 pp. 76-88 and 584/1997 pp.104-111.
- <sup>13</sup> Zaphiriou, Progetto p. 55 art.16 ... per i gruppi di denari, charge for the transport to Corfu ...un per cento da Cerigo, mezzo da Cefalonia e Zante, un quarto delle altre. Also in



- Appendix entitled, La Commissione Dell Eccellentissimo Senato per la Direzione Generale della Posta, of 5<sup>th</sup> October 1803 REGOLAMENTO §4... gruppi di denaro.
- <sup>14</sup> Γ.Μ.Βλάχος : *Το Αρχαίο της Ιονικής Τραπεζίης (Έγγραφα της περιόδου 1833-1920)*, Αθήνα 2000, Ε.Μ.Ε.ΙΣ σ.24 (G.M.Vlachos: *The Ionian Bank Ltd. Archives Documents 1833-1920*), Athens 2000.p.24.
  - <sup>15</sup> G.M.Vlachos, "Folded letters delivered to residents of various villages in Cephalonia (1824-1829)-Embryonic Poste Restante and courtesy Forwarding Agents in Argostoli", *Philotelia* No.597/1994 p. 152-167.
  - <sup>16</sup> Zaphiriou, p. 86, referring also to the great number of private mail at the Corfu Post Office uncalled for and/or remaining unpaid as early as 1805.
  - <sup>17</sup> Italian, language inherited from the Venetians, had been used as a rule by the public services even those run by locals initially. Plain Italian was understandable by several people but was not written or spoken by the locals among themselves who used common Greek in their everyday life. The British introduced English and Greek was adopted officially well before 1864. Educated persons in the Ionian Islands, apart from their use of old style modern Greek, were more or less familiar with Italian or French during the entire 19<sup>th</sup> century until the cataclysmic changes, in many ways, of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - <sup>18</sup> *Regolamento Sanitario generale intorno alle malattie epidemiche contagiose e particolarmente a quella del Colera ora dominante*. Bologna, Nella Stamperia Governativa, 1831.
  - <sup>19</sup> K.F.Meyer, *Disinfected Mail* Hulton, Kansas 1962, Luciano de Zanche, "Republic of Venice, The Disinfection of the Sea Mail coming from the Levant", *Postal History Journal*, no. 105/1996. Luciano de Zanche : *Storia della Disinfezione Postale in Europa e nell'area Mediterranea* etc., Padova 1997, pp.218-256 Catalogue of letters, with several originating from Ionian Islands, describing disinfections applied.
  - <sup>20</sup> C. Chase, "Les Marques Postales des Deux Occupations Francaises des Iles Ioniennes 1797 -1799 et 1807-1814" *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, No. 1240/Mars 1957. Edoardo Ohnmeiss : "Storia e poste di Corfù durante l' epoca Napoleonica" in Paolo Vollmeier –Vito Mancini : *Storia Postale del Regno di Napoli* etc. P. Vollmeier Editore – 1996, Vol.1, pp. 219-229.
  - <sup>21</sup> Zaphiriou, pp.87-89 and 217-220 including a *Statino di Lettere d'Estero* No. 492, i.e. statement of number of letters received from abroad together with charges collected as per tariff in force, but with the handwritten traces poorly printed,
  - <sup>22</sup> G.M.Vlachos, "Santa Maura, Incoming and Outgoing mail from March 1815 to March 1816." Originally presented in sessions of the "Ionian Islands Postal History Study Circle " in Zante (Sept.1994) and Argostoli (Oct.1997) and published in *Philotelia* No 588 /1998
  - <sup>23</sup> Zaphiriou, p.220, the No. 492, similar to the above No.175.
  - <sup>24</sup> Zaphiriou, pp. 134-135.
  - <sup>25</sup> Zaphiriou, p. 83 wrote that it was in use as from April 1804 on the basis of an inventory of the Corfu Post Office dated 30 April 1803. pp.82-83....*Two (2) seals (cancellers) of the post-office emblem with their respective ink-pads*. The original text in Italian p.A64 is: *2 Sigilli con la Marca della Posta con due sponghe*. But as the original is found applied as of July it seems improbable that it remained unknown or unused since April.
  - <sup>26</sup> Zaphiriou, p.201, A147 naming the date and owners of 27 handstamps the earliest one dated 25 July 1804 at the period of Septinsular Republic. I have seen another 7 applied in the same period and my estimation from those used by the French as from 1807 and including 1813 is, approximately, an additional 15 applications of this handstamp available in collections now.
  - <sup>27</sup> Zaphiriou handwritten note on it : Corfu Historical Archives File : Archives of the Senate /No. 137.
  - <sup>28</sup> Vlastos Catalogue 2005 vol. 3, *Postal History–Ionian Islands* no.74 and James Van der Linden, *Catalogue–Marques de Passages-Postvertragsstemp*e, Soluphil 1993, as no. 790. Regret that

- he never replied to my two registered letters requesting evidence supporting his statement of frequency as 6 only (unique:12).
- <sup>29</sup> Vlastos , *op.cit.* no. 5, Zaphiriou, pp. 116-117.
- <sup>30</sup> Umberto del Bianco, *Il Lloyd Austriaco e gli annuli marittimi dell' Austria-Ungheria*, vol 3, *Attività Postale autonoma Lloydiana nei porti Italiani, nelle Isole Jonie e in Grecia*, Sorani Milano 1982, p. 488.
- <sup>31</sup> Zaphiriou, pp. 196-198 and 212. No reference is made as to his source for the date of dispatch from England.
- <sup>32</sup> O.D. Cumming, "The Postal Rates in Ionian Islands", *Philotelia* 1998, pp. 203-210.
- <sup>33</sup> O. D. Cumming, "Mysterious Corfu Marks, 1847-1851", *Postal History Journal* no. 293/2000, pp. 9-13.
- <sup>34</sup> Zaphiriou: p. 151 for tariff.
- <sup>35</sup> Zaphiriou: p.149.
- <sup>36</sup> A.Buchon: Voyage dans l' Eubée, les Iles Ioniennes et les Cyclades en 1841, Paris 1911 p.79.
- <sup>37</sup> Zaphiriou, p. 158.
- <sup>38</sup> Paul Johnson, *The Birth of the Modern World Society 1815-1830*, Phoenix, London 1992, pp.166-169.

**Gerasimos M. Vlachos**, an internationally known scholar of the Ionian Islands, presented a different version of this paper to the Academie Européenne de Philatelie in 2013 (Opus XIII). Our thanks to Terry Hines for aiding with the English translation. In *PHJ* 126 October 2003, D. P. Zaphiriou commented on the famous "Rothschild Cover" from the Ionian Islands, with a follow-up history and analysis of the piece by Herbert A. Trenchard in *PHJ* 128 June 2004.

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# “Where Have All the Gallatins Gone?” - Use of Fractional Value U.S. Postage

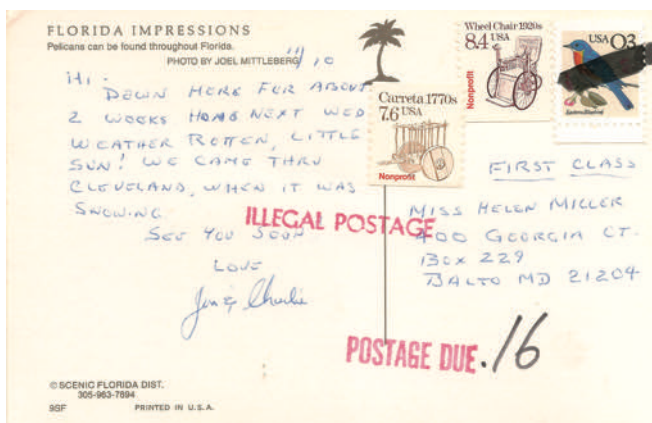
by Richard D. Martorelli

The melody and the first three verses of “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” were written by Pete Seeger in 1955 and first recorded by him in July 1960. Other artists have also recorded it, including The Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul and Mary, Marlene Dietrich (in three languages), Senator Bernie Sanders, and Dolly Parton. The lyrics are a meditation on mortality and life’s transience, and were adopted by protestors of American involvement in the Vietnam War (1965-1975). Seeger himself said: “Whatever it means to you, it means. But I’m not going to tell you what it means to me because that’s my ... well, I might destroy your illusions.”

Roughly contemporaneous with this song was the issuance of the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Albert Gallatin stamp (Scott 1279), on January 30, 1967. Albert Gallatin was a Swiss-born emigrant to America, a politician, diplomat, ethnologist, and linguist. He served as a Representative, Senator, United States Ambassador, and Secretary of the Treasury under both Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, holding the longest tenure in this office in American history. The Gallatin stamp is part of the Prominent American series, which started in 1965 with the 4 cent Abraham Lincoln (Scott 1282) and ended the basic designs with the 30 cent John Dewey (Scott 1291). Booklet panes, coils and tagged versions of the stamps continued to be issued up through 1978.

The inclusion of fractional stamps in definitive series began with the Fourth Bureau issues of 1922-1925, and continued through the Americana series. Following that, the Great American series does not have any fractional stamps, but the overlapping Transportation series coils have multiple issues, many of which are “service-inscribed” - wording on the face to indicate the mail class for which the stamp is to be used. Anyone wishing to use them for postage must complete and file USPS form 3615 “Mailing Permit Application and Customer Profile” at the post office where mailings are to be deposited. There is no fee for the permit, but each envelope mailed with these stamps must be endorsed “first-class mail” and handed to a postal clerk in the office where the mailer’s permit is kept on file. The postcard illustrated in Figure 1 was endorsed “first class mail” but, from the written message, it is obvious that the Florida post office of origin was not the sender’s home post office. Accordingly, the origin post office deemed the two nonprofit coil stamps as “Illegal Postage” and assessed the deficiency.

*Figure 1: Two nonprofit coil stamps deemed “Illegal Postage”; the deficiency assessed.*



The need for a fractional stamp originally occurred because of changes made in postal rates in 1925 when Congress investigated third and fourth class mail. When created in 1879, the third class category included printed matter which was excluded from the second class. The creation of parcel post in 1913 introduced inconsistencies in the rates for third and fourth class matter over 8 ounces. Instead of consolidating these two classes, Congress adopted weight as the dividing line: everything under 8 ounces became third class mail while everything heavier became fourth class. Congress also established a distinction within third class materials. Book, catalogues, seeds and cuttings retained their existing rate of one-cent per 2 ounces, but the rate on other mailings, including advertising circulars, was increased to 1½ cents per 2 ounces - effective April 15, 1925.

To support this rate change, the first fractional stamp issued for postage in the United States was the 1½ cents Warren Harding issue. A sheet stamp in two different perforations and a coil stamp were issued in March 1925, followed by a different coil and perforation versions in April and May 1925, August 1926, and May 1927. In addition, a different design (full face as opposed to profile) was issued in 1930. In April 1925, a half cent Nathan Hale stamp was issued. The Harding stamp specifically met the increased third class single piece rate while the Hale stamp was issued to be used as a “make-up rate” stamp, to be added to other denominations to meet any half-cent-ending total postage costs.

As a result of this 1925 increase, businesses that used direct-mail advertising united to lobby for changes in the different treatment of advertising in the second (newspapers) and third classes (circulars). More than 200 merchants and retailers extensively used the third class, according to the Direct Mail Advertising Association, for advertising matter such as circulars, letters, booklets, etc. As part of the lobbying of Congress, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce reported that the 1925 rate increase had shifted some circulars from third class (at 1½ cents each) to first class (at 2 cents each) to take advantage of the better first class service at a minimal increase in cost. The House post office committee itself noted that third-class mail had dropped by 400 million pieces after the 1925 rate hike.

In 1928, in response to the lobbying, Congress created a new category of third class mail - bulk mail. In all cases, a mailing had to exceed 200 identical pieces of mail. The advertising and circulars were then first subject to a weight test; if each piece was greater than a minimum weight, the mailer would be charged by the pound. If each piece was less than the minimum weight, the mailer was charged a fixed rate per piece. The fixed price per piece was now again the same 1 cent as previously charged for third class mail. The idea of mass mailing promotional information at a lower cost also appealed to nonprofit organizations. Eventually, a special subclass for nonprofit bulk mail was created and became effective in 1952.

As shown in the accompanying table on the next page, from its creation in 1928 until 1968 (the limit of this article), third class bulk mailing per-piece costs, on average, were two-thirds of regular third class mailing costs per piece. With the introduction of third class nonprofit bulk mailing in 1952, the per piece costs were one-third of the regular third class mailing costs per piece. These savings would be substantial for the businesses and charities involved. But what does this have to do with Albert Gallatin? Read on.

Many of the third class rates include fractions of cents. The third class single piece rate included a half-cent increment until 1949, creating the need for the fractional stamps in the Fourth Bureau series, in the Washington Bicentennial series, and in the Presidential series.

| Bulk=minimum<br>200 identical<br>pieces/mailing | 1 <sup>st</sup> Class,<br>Mailing,<br>Single Piece,<br>First ounce | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class,<br>Mailing,<br>Single Piece,<br>First 2 ozs. | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class,<br>Bulk Mailing,<br>Regular,<br>Minimum/piece | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class,<br>Bulk Mailing,<br>Non-Profit,<br>Minimum/piece |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| May 1, 1879                                     | 6.00 cent  | 1.00 cent   | N/A  | N/A   |
| April 15, 1925                                  | 2.00 cents   | 1.50 cents  | N/A  | N/A   |
| July 1, 1928                                    | 2.00 cents   | 1.50 cents  | 1.00 cent  | N/A   |
| July 6, 1932                                    | 3.00 cents   | 1.50 cents  | 1.00 cent  | N/A   |
| January 1, 1949                                 | 3.00 cents   | 2.00 cents  | 1.00 cent  | N/A   |
| July 1, 1952                                    | 3.00 cents   | 2.00 cents  | 1.50 cents   | 1.00 cent   |
| August 1, 1958                                  | 4.00 cents   | 3.00 cents  | 1.50 cents   | 1.00 cent   |
| January 1, 1959                                 | 4.00 cents   | 3.00 cents  | 2.00 cents   | 1.00 cent   |
| July 1, 1960                                    | 4.00 cents   | 3.00 cents  | 2.50 cents   | 1.25 cents  |
| January 7, 1963                                 | 5.00 cents   | 4.00 cents  | 2.625 cents  | 1.25 cents  |
| January 1, 1964                                 | 5.00 cents   | 4.00 cents  | 2.75 cents   | 1.25 cents  |
| January 1, 1965                                 | 5.00 cents   | 4.00 cents  | 2.875 cents  | 1.25 cents  |
| January 7, 1968                                 | 6.00 cents   | 6.00 cents  | 3.60 cents   | 1.40 cents  |

For the regular bulk rates, the postage cost per piece had half-cent increments at different times between 1952 and 1968. This created the need for the half-cent denominations in the Liberty series. For the non-profit bulk rates, the postage cost per piece had other than half-cent increments at different times between 1960 and 1968. This created the need for the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent denomination in the Liberty series as well as the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent denomination showing Albert Gallatin in the Prominent Americans series. Incidentally, all of these third class rates created a need for half-cent postage due stamps. A specific stamp was issued in 1925, and included in the 1930, 1931 and 1959 series.

In the late 1980s, the famous philatelist Clyde Jennings created an exhibit of half-cent stamps and uses from the 1925 Hale to the 1959 postage due. In a variation on a theme, over the last several years I have searched for proper fractional uses of the stamps in the four definitive series issued from 1925 through 1967 (Fourth Bureau, Presidential, Liberty and Prominent Americans). My search has also included uses of postal stationery, including revalued envelopes from 1925 and embossed non-profit envelopes from the 1960s.

The following examples of appropriate uses of fractional postage are presented in order of denomination of the postage and will range across stamp series and mail classes. To start, there have been no single-piece postal rates of less than one cent. A valid single use of a half cent postage stamp will be a combination of half cent stamps to meet a specific rate or as a supplement to other postage. Stamps of this denomination were included in the Fourth Bureau, Prexie and Liberty series. The top cover in Figure 2 is a 1930s use of the Nathan Hale stamps to make up the one-cent rate bulk mail rate, indicated by the "Sec. 562 P.L. & R." endorsement. These stamps were precanceled for use in Philadelphia, PA but the typesetting done was actually "PHILADELPHIA." The lower cover in this illustration is of a late 1950s-early 1960s travel advertising circular





*Figure 2: Half-cent Hale and Franklin stamps used in combination with other stamps to make up the 3 cent bulk mail rate. These stamps are more eye-catching than the regular rate stamps and got the mail opened and read.*



sent by the New London (CT) Chamber of Commerce. It is franked with a precanceled 2½ cents Bunker Hill and a supplemental half-cent Franklin to make up the 3 cents bulk mail rate. These stamps are more eye-catching than the then current 3 cent Statue of Liberty, and perhaps got this item opened and read. After all, isn't that the purpose of advertising mail?

Use of half-cent stamps as make-up (aka supplemental) postage occurred frequently on international printed matter mailings. The top cover in Figure 3 is a postcard going to Brazil at the international printed matter rate of 1½ cents for 2 ounces (April 1932–November 1953). The middle cover was mailed to Canada in 1934 with a one-cent Franklin supplemented by a half-cent Nathan Hale. At this time, Canada was one of a few countries (Australia and South Africa, along with Canada, are the most frequently seen) that charged a customs duty on incoming printed advertising matter and periodical publications. The reverse of this cover is shown with the Canadian customs stamp and marking. The international printed matter rate increased to 2 cents for 2 ounces on November 1, 1953, and the bottom cover uses a half cent Prexie to upcharge a U.S. domestic-rate bulk mail metered envelope for use to Canada. The Ontario “Duty Free” marking reflects a 1938 U.S.–Canada trade agreement, where American advertising matter in individual package valued at \$1.00 or less would be exempt from customs duty if the advertising material did not relate to things sold in Canada.



Figure 3: Half-cent stamps as make-up postage on international printed matter mailings, in these cases to Brazil (postal card, top) and Canada (the reverse of one cover, and front of another).



Use of 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent stamps or postal stationery is confined to the time period between July 1960 and December 1967, and only for nonprofit bulk mailings. Stamps of this denomination were included in Liberty and Prominent American series. The first example in Figure 4 is of the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Palace of the Governors, issued specifically to meet this rate. This cover is specifically annotated as “3<sup>rd</sup> Class Non-Profit Organization.” A 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Benjamin Franklin stamped envelope was issued on June 25, 1960 and, as this rate continued through 1967, a 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Liberty Bell stamped envelope inscribed “Authorized Nonprofit Organization” was issued on January 6, 1965. The next cover shown is the Franklin envelope mailed in September 1962, but assessed 8 cents postage due. This was because the item was handled twice after the original mailing—once to a new address and then again when it was returned to the sender. Each of these two movements was charged the 1<sup>st</sup> class rate of 4 cents. The top cover shown in Figure 5 is a Liberty Bell envelope properly used in September 1966. The middle cover is an example of “false franking” using a Franklin envelope. This is where the face value of the postage does not represent the actual per-piece cost, with the difference in postage either paid to or refunded by the post office. In this case, an auxiliary marking on the front and a note enclosed with the envelope explain that this item was mailed between January 7 and March 7, 1968, and that the increased cost of a 0.15 cent increase in the rate for non-profit bulk mailings was paid



Figure 4:  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cent rate as a stamp or postal stationary, July 1960 to December 1967, only for nonprofit bulk mailings.



Figure 5: Examples of nonprofit bulk envelopes mailed at the correct rate and as a "false franking," as well as multiple stamps used to make the first class rate [ $4 \times 1\frac{1}{4} = 5$  cents].

directly to the post office. And, at last, the bottom cover is a use of the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Gallatin, in the proper time period, but in a block of four paying the 1<sup>st</sup> class rate.

Correct third class nonprofit use of the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Albert Gallatin stamp is hardly seen, although it is listed in the Scott's Specialized U.S. Catalog. In his booklet "The Half-A Collection," Mr. Jennings discusses reasons for the absence of covers with #J88, the half-cent postage due stamp, and those reasons also apply to the Gallatin stamp. The first two reasons are the lack of mail rates for the stamp denomination and existing supplies of stamps. The only then-current rate calling for a 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent stamp at the time of the Gallatin issue in 1967 was the bulk rate non-profit rate (July 1960 to January 1968). To meet this rate, Scott#U547, 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Liberty Bell inscribed "Authorized Nonprofit Organization" had been issued in January 1965. In addition, there were still supplies of Scott#1031A, 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Palace of the Governors stamp (sheet and coil) and Scott #U541, 1<sup>1/4</sup> cent Benjamin Franklin envelope (all issued June 1960). While there may have been available stamps, the design of the definitive stamp series (Prominent Americans) had changed, so there was a perceived need to issue a new stamp.

Another probable reason for the scarcity of appropriately used Gallatin covers is the growth of the use of meters for postage as well as postage due. In 1960, metered mail accounted for 43% percent of U.S. postage. According to the U.S. Post Office Department, in 1945, for every \$1 of postage stamps sold, the POD was paid \$0.34 for "Postage paid under permit." This included meter uses in all four classes of mail, as well as permits (such as business reply mail or other indicia). In 1960, this had increased to \$1.36, and in 1965 had increased to \$1.66. Meter development had progressed so that it was easier to print any denomination than find the correct amount in postage stamps.

For example, as the Third Class bulk rate changed to 2<sup>5/8</sup> cents in 1963, a mailer would have to "false frank" (use of stamps that do not represent a correct per-piece postage rate, with the difference in postage paid to/refunded from the post office) an envelope with either a 2<sup>1/2</sup> cent Bunker Hill (underpaying <sup>1/8</sup> cent) or a 3 cents Statue of Liberty definitive (overpaying <sup>3/8</sup> cent). On a minimum mailing of 200 pieces, this would require an additional payment of \$0.25 or a refund of \$0.75 to be done at the post office at the time of mailing. In both cases, the amount of money involved would not seem to be worth the extra effort, particularly when the use of a postage meter could print the correct amount. Additionally, as technology changed, meter machines could be connected to mailing machines that would fold the insert, fill and seal the envelope.

While no one could know in January 1967 that the nonprofit bulk mail rate would change in 11 months, organizations could reasonably anticipate that postage rates would be changing soon, if for nothing else than inflation. An investment in use of a postage meter would have been a cost savings and productivity improvement for most business then as much as internet-postage is for business today.

Use of 1<sup>1/2</sup> cent stamps are the most numerous of the fractional stamps, as that rate was in existence for a total of 29 years. Stamps of this denomination were included in the Fourth Bureau, Prexie and Liberty series. It was the rate for third class single piece mail from 1925 through 1948, and for third class bulk rate mail from 1952 to 1958. Third class single piece mail is defined as being printed matter having no or incidental writing (usually five or fewer words), weighing less than 8 ounces, and being open for inspection. This class also included "miscellaneous" matter equal to or less than 8 ounces in weight that didn't fall into other mail classes. This rate became popular for mailing a variety



of items at a lower cost than 1<sup>st</sup> class mail, but with comparable speed of service. This included the Figure 6 items of advertising mail envelope with the optometrist's corner card as well as miscellaneous items like the 1934 souvenir card with miniature mail bag and the 1943 message record from a soldier.

Figure 6: Items using the 1<sup>1/2</sup> cent rate, including an advertising mail envelope, a souvenir card with miniature mail bag, and a message record sent home by a soldier in WWII.



The third class definition was also inclusive of unsealed greeting cards with minimal writing. In the U.S. in the late 1920s, the industry employed more than 5,000 American workmen at as many as 40 factories. The practice of sending cards became further entrenched in American culture when it was embraced as a charitable gesture. By the 1940s, many nonprofits were raising money by selling special sets of Christmas cards that carried their institution's logo or an image inspired by its mission. Figure 7 shows examples of different uses of this rate for what appear to have been Christmas cards, based



in the envelope shape and the December postmarks. The top item, postmarked in 1933, is a proper use. The middle item, from 1945, started out fine, but when the envelope had to be forwarded, it was up-charged to the 1<sup>st</sup> class rate, and the amount due was collected by a 1½ Prexie, mirroring the original postage. Greeting cards could be forwarded at no extra charge only if the recipient had been transferred due to official orders. The bottom item, upon inspection of the unsealed envelope, must have had more writing inside than deemed allowable, and was up-charged to the 1<sup>st</sup> class rate. Here the amount due was collected by half-cent and one-cent postage due stamps.



Figure 7: Several uses of the third class “greeting card” rate, including forwarded and up-charged mail.

Postal Stationary envelopes were also frequently used by businesses for mailing of third class mail. At the introduction of the rate in 1925, the USPOD issued 10 major and minor varieties of 1½ cent envelopes with the round George Washington silhouette, as shown at the top of Figure 8. These are cataloged as Scott #U481–W485a. At the same time, the POD allowed local post offices having specific canceling machines to surcharge existing surplus envelopes issued between 1897 and 1925. Eventually, there were 104 distinct major and minor varieties issued, cataloged as Scott # U486-U521a. An example of a surcharged envelope is shown at the bottom of Figure 8. Identifying the die used in printing the indicia, as well as color of the paper used is difficult. My starting assumption is that I do not have rare or expensive items, so I identify the two examples as U481 (1½c brown) and U495 (1½c surcharged on 1c green).



Figure 8: Two basic postal stationary envelopes, out of 114 distinct major and minor varieties. Ten envelopes were issued with 1<sup>1/2</sup> cents postage and 104 older envelopes were surcharged to that value for use in third class bulk mailings upon the introduction of the rate in 1925.

The last stamp in this denomination is the Liberty series 1<sup>1/2</sup> cent Mt. Vernon, issued in 1956. This would have replaced the Martha Washington Prexie in use for 13 years, and was correct for third class bulk mail. Again, due to the nature of the mail piece and the increasing use of meters (as illustrated in Figure 9 by the Great Northern Railway bulk mail piece from the late 1950s), the Mt. Vernon stamp is not frequently seen by itself for its intended use. It is fairly often seen as part of a combination rate, as in the bottom cover in Figure 9. This 1956 item from a print shop uses the 1<sup>1/2</sup> cent Mt Vernon in conjunction with a half cent Hale to make the 2 cents third class single piece rate, canceled with a

Figure 9: Nemesis of the fractional stamp, the postage meter was able to be set to any amount with greater ease than finding postage stamps. The odd-denomination stamps were then consigned to being paired with a mate to equal a usable rate.



year-only machine cancel. Another frequently seen use of this stamp is in pairs to make the 3 cents 1<sup>st</sup> class rate.

Continuing on, the next fractional stamp is 2<sup>1/2</sup> cents. This denomination was only produced in the Liberty series, with the stamp showing the Bunker Hill Monument issued in June 1959. To me, this is odd, given that the only use for a single stamp of this denomination did not come into existence until July 1960. Two single uses of this stamp are shown in Figure 10, of which the first is a local mail use (address of “City”) with a back stamp of October 1961. At this time, the reduced rate for local mail had been limited to “carrier” post offices, where the mail was left at a post office for delivery by mailman in the same local area. At this time, the rate was 3 cents for a local letter, still higher than the 2<sup>1/2</sup> cents charged for this third class bulk mail. The addressee of this mail piece had moved to another state, but it is not clear if this item was forwarded or returned to the sender. In either case, there was no additional postage charge noted on the letter. The auxiliary manuscript marking of “official order” may explain the lack of postage due. If the addressee was a member of the military, and the change in address was the result of “official orders,” there is no charge for the forwarding of any class of mail. The other item illustrated is a postcard sent bulk rate. While the 2<sup>1/2</sup> cent rate was in effect, the regular postcard rate was 3 cents, so this still was a savings of half a cent. The sender was a family-owned shoe store that had been operating at the same location since the 1930s. The use of this method would have saved the business 17% (\$5 for 3<sup>rd</sup> class bulk mail vs. \$6 for 1st class postcard at the minimum 200 piece mailing, in 1960 dollars).

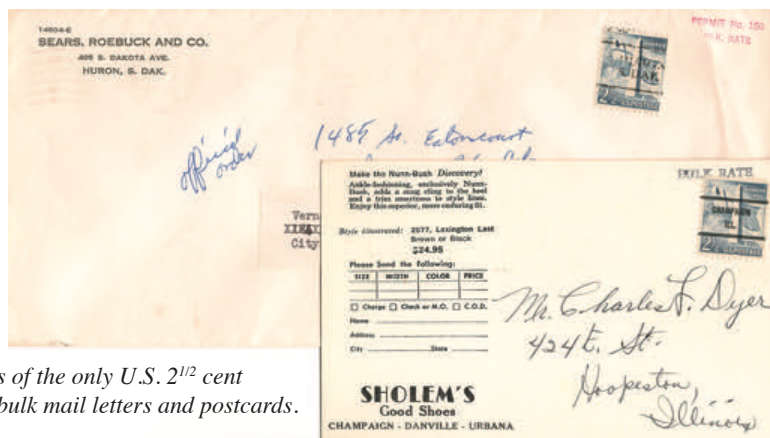


Figure 10: Uses of the only U.S. 2<sup>1/2</sup> cent stamps on both bulk mail letters and postcards.

The last fractional postage stamp was the 4<sup>1/2</sup> cent value. Stamps of this denomination were included in the Prexie and Liberty series. The stamp was primarily used for multiple weight-steps of the third class single piece and bulk mail rates, and occasionally for payment of a combination of rates. Figure 11 shows several uses. The top cover uses the single 4<sup>1/2</sup> cent Hermitage stamp as postage for the mailing of a 4 ounce calendar, paying 3 cents for the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 ounces, and 1<sup>1/2</sup> cents for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 ounces. The middle cover is an example of the 4<sup>1/2</sup> cent Prexie used to pay the third class single piece rate of 1<sup>1/2</sup> cents and the 3 cents fee for \$5 or less insurance coverage. The bottom cover shown has a story told by the auxiliary markings and postage due stamps. This piece of an envelope was mailed in 1940, and contained 6 ounces of third class material. Apparently the sender had sealed the envelope, making it impossible for the USPOD to open it “for inspection.”



Figure 11: Uses of the highest value fractional postage stamp in the 1925-1968 period. The 4<sup>1/2</sup> cent paid multiple weight steps of the third class rate, or for a combination of postage and services. The bottom cover has postage due charged related to an upgrading of the class of the item after it was originally mailed.

Accordingly, they reclassified this item as 1<sup>st</sup> class mail and uprated it up to 18 cents (6 ounces times 3 cents/ounce), less a credit for the 4<sup>1/2</sup> cent stamp, and assessed postage due of 13<sup>1/2</sup> stamps. The envelope was underpaid by five rate steps, and assessed the penalty of 1 cent per rate, for a total of 5 cents (underpaid postage 13<sup>1/2</sup> cents divided by 3 cents/ounce = 5 rates). This brought the total postage due to 18<sup>1/2</sup> cents, for which 19 cents in postage due stamps were affixed. .

The only other fractional stamp issued by the USPOD was the half-cent postage due stamp. This value first appeared in 1925 as an add-on to the 1917 postage due series. Based on postage rates and needed to collect unpaid amounts, it was again part of the new design series issued in 1930 (flat plate printing) and 1931 (rotary press printing). In Figure 7, above, for the 1<sup>1/2</sup> cent rate, an example was shown of the half-cent used in combination to collect postage due on a greeting card. The top cover in Figure 12 shows an interesting combination of a half-cent Prexie and a half-cent postage due. This small envelope was mailed in 1946, and bears a 1<sup>1/2</sup> cent Prexie as postage. Enclosed in the envelope is a printed baby announcement, with blank lines for the newborn's name, birthdate, weight and parent's name. It must have been a slow summer, as the post office took the time to open the unsealed envelope, look at the card, and count the number of written words. On finding that there were more than five written words, the envelope was marked with auxiliary handstamps of "Contains Writing" and "POSTAGE DUE 1<sup>1/2</sup> CENTS". Both a one-cent and a half-cent due stamp were affixed. Since the half-cent United States coin was last minted in 1857, there was no way the addressee could pay less than a penny. To remedy this, the POD attached an unused half-cent Prexie to the envelope as "change." The bottom cover does not have an official half cent stamp, but



it has a practical one. In the early days of the 1½ cent third class rate in 1925, it appears that the post office at Cusson, Minnesota did not rush to order the new half-cent postage due stamps. At that time, the town was a station and repair shops for the Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific Railway. It is likely that the town was not large, as the post office was closed four years later in 1929. Faced with the need to collect the guaranteed return postage on this item, the postmaster improvised. It appears that he tore a one-cent postage due stamp in half, and used it to collect the fractional amount due.



Figure 12: Two uses of fractional postage due, one using issued stamps and providing “change” and the other using an improvised bisect.

The last half-cent postage due stamp, J88, was included in the final U.S. postage due series, issued starting in June 1959. To me, this indicates that the series had been in preparation since 1958. At that time, there was still a bulk rate that included a half-cent, but this changed in January 1959, six months before the new designs were issued. New rates with half-cent values were again briefly in effect for third class mail in 1960-1962. There are no known covers with #J88, as cited by Clyde Jennings in his booklet “The Half-A Collection.” He listed three reasons this happened. As discussed above, the first two are lack of rates and adequate supplies of equal value stamps. The half-cent postage due stamp would only be needed for certain third class bulk mail in 1960-1962 and for non-profit bulk rate in even quantities to make up a half-a-cent cost. When this stamp was issued in 1959, there were still plentiful supplies of the 1930/1931 series of the half-cent postage due, and post offices were ordered to use those stamps first. The third reason cited by Mr. Jennings was that J88 was removed from use in April 1963, which significantly decreased opportunities for use as a make-up stamp on any class of mail.

To my surprise, I have been able to find almost all of the fractional stamps, mostly appropriately used. Philatelists and regular people alike have always used multiple copies of these stamps to make up, and occasionally overpay, ordinary first class mail. Third class mail included unsealed greeting cards as well as other more exotic souvenir mail. Advertising mail in many different varieties was the reason for the third class bulk rate, and this often needed a half-cent stamp to make a non-fractional rate. Non-profit mail is



harder to find with these stamps, but part of the fun of the hobby is in the chase. Postal stationary has helped provide examples of proper rate use, and there are a number of uses of the pre-1959 half-cent due stamp to be found.

That said, there were still two stamps which I had not seen used as intended for a specific rate – at least at the time of my first draft of the article. The #J88, the half-cent postage due stamp, is a well-known rarity and might never be found. But the other, an appropriate 3rd class non-profit contemporary use of the 1<sup>1/4</sup> cents Albert Gallatin stamp, that inspired my title, showed up before press time. The cover in Figure 13 shows a precanceled Gallatin stamp from Maryland, used by the Red Cross in a local mailing, most likely part of a fund-raising solicitation. Alas, I did not find it in a dealer's \$1 box, but on a well-known internet auction site. Bidding was spirited, and in the end (despite the ever more discouraging sniping in the last seconds) I did win it. 2017 began very well, and I will now find some other intriguing side street in our grand hobby, and meander down it to see what I can see and learn.

Figure 13: Proper use of a precanceled Gallatin 1<sup>1/4</sup> cents on a non-profit mailing.



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**Richard D. Martorelli** has collected for over 40 years, and pursues his accounting profession as a way to enjoy stamps. He is a father of two fine young men, and is loved and supported in his hobby by a wonderful woman.

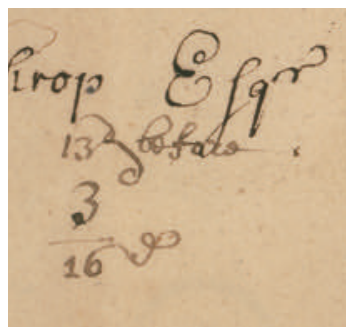
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**COVER ILLUSTRATION:** The Musee de la Poste in Paris is on the threshold of reopening after a large-scale renovation of its 1972 building at 34 boulevard de Vaugirard. The idea of a national postal museum originated with philatelist Arthur Maury after seeing a rail post exhibit at the 1889 Exposition Universelle. In 1936, the Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones initiated a project to install exhibits at the Choiseul-Praslin hotel. A semi-postal stamp to support it was issued on July 6, 1939 but, when war interrupted, the museum's opening was delayed until 1946. Our cover illustration is of a semi-postal stamp (Scott B293, Y&T 1018) designed for Stamp Day ("journée du timbre") in 1955 by Raoul Serres. It commemorates the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of airmail service in France, but more particularly celebrates the balloon post used during the siege of Paris 1870-1871. Displays that illustrate this dramatic chapter in the French postal system have always been the most popular attractions at the postal museum, whose collections include one of the actual balloons, as well as examples of delivered correspondence and other ephemera. The late Ernst Cohen, long a supporting member and officer of this Society, collected and exhibited the postal history of this air service.

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### **Annapolis Royal 1710 - forwarded?**

Tim O'Connor's letter addressed to Waite Winthrop in Boston, illustrated as Figure 6 page 6 in *PHJ* 166, still needs its postal marking explained. Bill Duffney simplified the image by shortening the tail of the "q" in Esquire. The word below it appears to Tim to be "Bo Ford" which he reads as an abbreviation for forward to Boston – making it the earliest forwarding notation. Bernard Biales agrees with this reading, adding that there is a good chance that this shows the illegal 3d Massachusetts ship fee (there is evidence in the Massachusetts legislative records that they passed an allowance for a 3d ship charge, and did not specifically repudiate it, though it was not otherwise adopted.) Does anyone have an opinion on this? Contact: [agatherin@yahoo.com](mailto:agatherin@yahoo.com)



FROM the PHS (GB):

## Salt Lake City, Utah to Birmingham, England 1857

by Julian H. Jones

A letter was sent, unpaid, from Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, via San Francisco, and New York to Birmingham, England, on board the Collins Line's *Baltic*, in September 1857 (Figure 1). It is significant for two reasons: the 'ART 5' mark on the reverse of the cover; and the routing from Salt Lake City to the U.S. west coast before being sent via Panama to reach Great Britain.

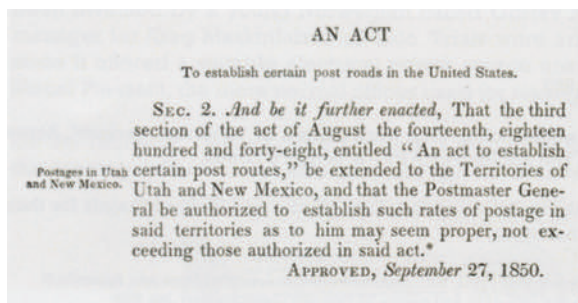


Figure 1: Front of the cover postmarked 'SALT LAKE CITY UTAH.T. SEP 7' with the experimental Liverpool 3-ring dotted circular date stamp 'LIVERPOOL 18NO 57 A1' [used 1856-57]. The '1/2' handstamp is for the '29' cents postage due equivalent of 1 shilling 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pence.



Figure 2: On the rear the 'ART-5' mark [Tabcart type M7a'] is much less frequently seen than the 'ART-5 / U.S. PKT.' mark [M8]. The 'AMERICA / LIVERPOOL / 18NO / 57' mark [Tabcart P5] noted the arrival date of the cover at Liverpool from the U.S. The letter reached its Birmingham addressee the following day.

Under the Anglo-American mail treaty effective February 1849, Article 5 of the Letter Bill from the United States to Great Britain was for unpaid mail and stated it was for “Closed mails for the British office in transit through the United States.” Letters to be accounted for under Article 5 were identified by the ART – 5 handstamp. Tabcart notes that type M7a was issued to Liverpool on November 8, 1850 for use on letters from San Francisco at the 2/5<sup>1/2</sup>d rate, which was replaced on July 1, 1851 with the 1sh 2<sup>1/2</sup>d rate (29¢) which continued until June 30, 1863. The mark more commonly seen is either the illustrated ‘ART – 5 / U.S. PKT.’ [M8 type] when the mail has been carried by an American packet ship, or ‘ART – 5 / B.R. PKT.’ [M6] when carried by a British packet. Thus the period for intended use of M7a was quite short lived. It is seen used here in 1857 alongside



the replacement M8 mark which was proofed, with M6, on July 24, 1851.

The 1852 Postal Laws and Regulations show that a Congressional Act of September 27, 1850, which amended a August 14, 1848 Act that described post roads on the Pacific coast of the United States, was extended to

include the Territories of Utah and New Mexico.<sup>2</sup> An asterisk at the end was explained at the bottom of the page as follows: “These postages fall under the general provisions of the act of 3d March, 1851.” This means that from September 27, 1850, mail to or from Utah and New Mexico territories would be treated as belonging to the United States and subject to the postal laws of the United States. Utah was an Unorganized Territory from April 1849 until September 8, 1850. On September 9, 1850 it became a United States Territory and remained as such until statehood on January 4, 1898.

Salt Lake City was, by 1851, the central point in a network of routes between California and the east. The U.S. Post Offices operated the routes by means of contract mail carriers who ran east from Salt Lake City to Missouri and west to variously Oregon, San Francisco and Los Angeles. In May 1851 George Chorpenning operated the first contract mail service between Salt Lake City and California. In July 1854, he renewed his monthly mail contract between California and Utah, but moved to a Salt Lake City-San Diego route. This “Old Spanish Trail” route connected with San Francisco by steamship. In July 1856 a new schedule commenced departing on the fifth of each month, effective July 5, 1856. Chorpenning ran on that schedule until his contract expired on June 30, 1858. His stagecoaches ran between Salt Lake City and San Bernardino, California (east of Los Angeles) with connections to get the mail between San Bernardino, Los Angeles and the port of San Pedro. Trip times were roughly 23 days between Salt Lake City and San Bernardino, five days between San Bernardino and Los Angeles, and three days between Los Angeles and San Francisco.<sup>3</sup> A regular steamship line operated between San Francisco, San Pedro and San Diego.

Examples of letters sent via an eastbound route to New York for Great Britain show a payment or a charge of 24 cents – the east coast treaty rate. However, this cover shows a charge of 29 cents, which is typical of San Francisco – the west coast treaty rate. Such

covers are usually endorsed “via California.”

However, the Utah Expedition of 1857-58 was brewing to suppress a perceived Mormon rebellion. U.S. Federal troops began to gather at Fort Leavenworth in May 1857 to move on Salt Lake City. This expedition interrupted direct mail communications between Missouri and Salt Lake City from July 1857 to June 1858.

The September 1857 letter was mailed in a period when only a westerly route was available. It is likely that mail had built up and either the scheduled Chorpenning departure was delayed or more than one batch was forwarded over a period of three days, September 5 to 7.

The most likely routing with scheduled or actual 1857 dates is as follows:

**Chorpenning Contract** scheduled to depart Salt Lake September 5, arrive Los Angeles October 2, arrive San Francisco October 12

**PMSC *Golden Age*** scheduled to depart San Francisco October 11, arrive Panama October 24

**USMC *Star of the West*** scheduled to depart Chagres October 24, arrive New York November 4<sup>4</sup>

**Collins Line *Baltic***<sup>5</sup> depart New York November 7, arrive Liverpool November 18

Under the Anglo-US treaty the ships of the Collins Line were treated as ‘American packets,’ hence use of the ‘ART – 5 / U.S. PKT.’ mark. The addition of ‘ART – 5’ is thus a bonus.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Collin Tabart, “Robertson Revisited,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplement 2016, TPO & Seapost Society; Tabart, C: *Robertson Revisited*, James Bendon, Limassol, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/pdf/PlandR\\_/1852/2077.pdf](http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/pdf/PlandR_/1852/2077.pdf) pp 104

<sup>3</sup> Stephen Walske & Richard Frajola, *Mails of the Western Expansion 1803-1861*, 2015, Chapter 7 and Appendix D.

<sup>4</sup> Theron J. Wierenga, *United States Incoming Steamship Mail 1847-1875*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, US Philatelic Classics Society, Inc. 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Walter Hubbard & Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-1875*, US Philatelic Classics Society, Inc. 1988.

The author wishes to record his thanks to Colin Tabart, Dick Winter and Richard Frajola for their assistance in analyzing this exceptional cover.

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## COVER STORY:

# “Each Passing Tread Was a Reverberation” – A Collector’s Quest

by David M. Frye

The cover in Figure 1 took fifty-three years to journey from its point of origin to its current residence in my collection. The footprints left along the journey’s path provide some clues that help to reveal parts of the cover’s story. In that way, each of these little details is a “passing tread ... a reverberation,” in the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poetic musing about his visit to the Abbey of Montecassino, a place that plays a central role in this story. So, let’s begin by taking a look at the cover, and then go from there, following the footprints where they may lead.

### The Cover



Figure 1: Registered air mail cover sent from Barrington, Rhode Island, to Montecassino, Italy, June 15, 1961.

An air mail letter traveled from Barrington, Rhode Island, to Montecassino, Italy, in June 1961. The sender, Rev. S. Iannetta, franked this air mail envelope using four United States postage stamps—the 1¢ Thomas Jefferson and 50¢ Susan B. Anthony issues from the Liberty Series, the 10¢ Liberty Bell air mail issue of 1960, and the 4¢ Kansas Statehood Centennial issue of 1961—to pay postage of 65¢ for a registered air mail letter to Ildefonso Rea O.S.B. The air mail rate that year for a half-ounce letter was 15¢.<sup>1</sup> The additional 50¢ paid by the stamps represented the prevailing international registration fee.<sup>2</sup> The front of the cover bears a typical registered mail marking in purple ink. A handwritten “378” notes the letter’s entry in the Post Office Department’s registered mail records. These records would have been under the care of Edward J. Quinn, who served as Barrington’s acting postmaster from October 31, 1947 to June 23, 1948 and then as postmaster from June 23, 1948 to May 19, 1979.<sup>3</sup> A nice handstamp flags the letter as air mail, denoted both with text and the image of an airplane. The four stamps bear small, purple circular cancels that note they have served their purpose.



*Figure 2: Reverse of cover showing dates and locations of mailing and receipt. Two 1958 se-tenant Boys Town Christmas seals cover the edge of the envelope flap.*

As was the practice in the period, the back of the envelope carries two purple circular date stamps noting the city of origination—Barrington, R.I.—and the date of sending: June 15, 1961. The back also features the receiving postmark of “Cassino / Telegrafo” and the date, “19 6. 61” or 19 June 1961. The sender used two three-year-old Boys Town Christmas seals on the back of the envelope.

These bare-bones details describe the origin, mailing method, rate, and destination of a postal history cover typical of the period. The four stamps all saw use on this cover within reasonable proximity to their dates of issuance; thus, postal historians would say that the uses are all “in-period.” The cover is clean, with sharp edges, with only slight browning of the flap’s adhesive visible on the back. End of story.

### **Mysteries and Intentions**

Or is it? Is there more to tell about the history of this cover than these fundamental philatelic facts? What happened to the letter after delivery? First of all, the condition of the cover reveals that the recipient or someone else opened the letter carefully, cutting a slit cleanly across the top edge. Because the width of the diagonal air-mail-letter markings is consistent along all four edges, the slitting does not seem to have removed any paper from the top of the envelope.

The next five decades in the history of this cover remain a mystery. All one can say is that no one threw it away, and it remained in good condition, free from damage from water or other sources hard on paper. Then, in 2012, or perhaps earlier, an individual named Luigi D’Emilio, from Ceccano, a town lying about fifty kilometers to the northwest of Monte Cassino, listed this cover on the international, online market known as Delcampe.<sup>4</sup> I submitted the only bid and purchased the cover for €5.00 on November 24, 2012.

What attracted me to the cover? At the time, I was accumulating covers bearing U.S. stamps issued in 1961. Why that year? I had been studying the U.S. issues of 1961 since June 2008 when I attended one of the offerings of the American Philatelic Society’s Summer Seminar, “Cultural Projects in Postal History,” and learned the basics of postal history research from Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris. They recommended coming to the seminar with a topic or interest to investigate over the course of the week.

Because I was born in 1961 —barely— and claimed a December 31, birthday, I decided to pick the U.S. stamps of that year as the focus of my practice of the basics of postal history research. This cover's Kansas Statehood Centennial stamp was one of the commemoratives issued in 1961. Thus, that stamp's usage caught my eye, and the combination of air mail and registry service led me to make the bid.

### Details Emerge

A few weeks after the auction ended, the cover arrived in the mail from Italy. When I opened the outer envelope and took out the cover, I saw some details I'd not seen when I had looked at the image online. There, in clear, all-caps, Courier-style typewriting were the details of the recipient's address:

ECC.ZA REV.MA  
D ILDEFONSO REA O.S.B.  
ABATA-ORDINARIO Di  
(PROV. Di FROSINONE) MONTECASSINO  
I T A L Y

The destination—MONTECASSINO—caught my eye. I recognized this as the location of the monastery founded in the sixth century by Benedict, now a saint and the patron of Europe. Because I had become a Benedictine oblate in 2008, and was, by late 2012, in my fifth year of immersing myself in studying and reflecting on *The Rule of Benedict* and learning about the history of monasticism, I had come to know a bit about the place of Montecassino in that history. I was thrilled to have acquired an item with some links to that history.

Turning to the Web, I then partially clarified additional elements of the address. The first line—ECC.ZA REV.MA—contained two contractions for Italian terms. The first contraction expands to “*Eccellenza*,” or “Excellency,” and the second contraction shortens “*Reverendissima*,” or “Most Reverend.” The next line—D ILDEFONSO REA O.S.B.—presents the recipient's title (“D” for “Dom,” a shortened form of the Latin *Dominus*, meaning “lord,” and title of honor among Benedictines), name, and the abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Ordo Sancti Benedicti*, which marks Ildefonso Rea as a Benedictine monk. The next line—ABATA-ORDINARIO Di—reveals that he was the abbot ordinary of MONTECASSINO, the town and monastery named in the next line. The parenthetical (PROV. Di FROSINONE) indicates the location of Montecassino in the province of Frosinone, a part of the administrative region of Lazio, and, finally, the spaced-for-emphasis treatment of I T A L Y concludes the address.

The sender's information raised no challenges. It simply presented the title and name, street address, and the city, state, and country of the letter's origin:

From. REV.S.IANNETTA  
341 MAPLE AVE  
BARRINGTON, R.I.(USA)

Again, by turning to the Web, I discovered that the letter came from Holy Angels Church, which is still located at this street address. A little more searching revealed that the sender's full name was Father Sabatino Iannetta, who had been serving as the pastor of Holy Angels Church in 1961 when he sent the letter.



Figure 3: Chiesa degli Angeli, or Church of the Angels, was built in 1913. Archives of Holy Angels Church, Barrington, Rhode Island.

Thus, digging a little deeper revealed that the envelope had contained correspondence of some sort from a priest in Rhode Island to the abbot of the Abbey of Montecassino. I considered this additional detail an added benefit to my acquisition of a “1961 cover.” In fact, while this cover has not made its way into any presentations related to 1961 U.S. issues, I have used it in a topical exhibit on St. Benedict. End of story.

### Epistolary Portraits

Or is it? Is there more to tell about the history of this cover *and the two men named on its front* than these basic facts of location and ecclesiastical office? Next, I asked, “Why might Father Sabatino Iannetta have written to Abbot Ildefonso Rea?” What—beyond their mutual dedication to service in the Catholic Church—linked them to one another? Of course, the definitive answer would come from reading the contents of the envelope.

But, the envelope arrived empty. I wrote to the abbey on June 24, 2013 and asked for any information its archivist might have on communications from Father Iannetta in 1961. A long shot, to be sure. Nothing came of that query. A similar letter I sent to the Rev. Raymond J. Ferrick, pastor of Holy Angels Parish, resulted in a friendly reply and a packet of information about Father Iannetta. Additional Web searches revealed a good deal of information about Abbot Rea. From these two collections of information, portraits of the two men began to take shape.



Figure 4: Sabatino Iannetta served as an infantry lieutenant in the Italian Army in World War I. Archives of Holy Angels Church, Barrington, Rhode Island.



Here's what I've discovered about Father Iannetta. Hewas born on October 29, 1892 in Providence, Rhode Island. That day fell on a Saturday, perhaps giving rise to his baptismal name of "Sabatino." In the homily delivered at Father Iannetta's funeral Mass on September 17, 1965, Father Francis J. Giudice recalled that Sabatino grew up in Providence until he was ten. Then, his parents sent him to the abbey at Montecassino to study.<sup>5</sup> Father Iannetta later wrote about "the unforgettable Montecassino, the Abbey within whose massive and holy walls, as in a beloved and sheltered haven so divinely protected, I spent the tender years of my childhood and early youth until God called me to His own in the Sacred Ministry."<sup>6</sup>

|   |          |                       |       |   |   |    |   |     |       |            |          |  |  |    |    |    |    |  |  |           |   |
|---|----------|-----------------------|-------|---|---|----|---|-----|-------|------------|----------|--|--|----|----|----|----|--|--|-----------|---|
| 7 | 15 750 8 | Dr. Frederick Steiner | Head  | M | W | 47 | 5 | REG | Stacy | Palmerston |          |  |  | RD | RD | RD | ST |  |  | 0. 8. 746 | 1 |
|   |          | Caroline Richard      | Dr    | M | W | 47 | 5 | REG | Stacy | Palmerston | Grand    |  |  | RD | RD | RD | ST |  |  | 0. 8. 746 | 1 |
|   |          | Samuel, Solomon       | Coast | M | W | 47 | 5 | REG | Stacy |            |          |  |  | RD | RD | RD | ST |  |  | 0. 8. 746 | 1 |
|   |          | Joseph, Jones         |       | M | W | 47 | 5 | REG | Stacy |            |          |  |  | RD | RD | RD | ST |  |  | 0. 8. 746 | 1 |
|   |          | Robert, Hilditch      |       | M | W | 47 | 5 | REG | Stacy | Hyderabad  | Spangish |  |  | RD | RD | RD | ST |  |  | 0. 8. 746 | 1 |
|   |          | Isabel, Jones         | Grand | F | W | 47 | 5 | REG | Stacy | St. John's |          |  |  | RD | RD | RD | ST |  |  | 0. 8. 746 | 1 |

Figure 5: Detail of census enumerator's records for St. Ann's Rectory. Father Iannetta's listing appears on line 10. U.S. Census Bureau archival record, accessed January 14, 2017.

By July 1944, the Most Reverent Francis P. Keough, bishop of Providence, had named Father Iannetta pastor of Holy Angels Church in Barrington. Father Ferrick noted, "Following World War II, Father Iannetta was instrumental in raising funds and soliciting political support for the restoration of the Abbey, which, as you know, was devastated during the war."<sup>14</sup> Holy Angels Parish has preserved several items Father Iannetta received from the Abbey at Monte Cassino. One, a certificate dated March 20, 1949, acknowledges Father Iannetta's support of the monastery, notes the gift of a bronze medallion, and is signed + Ildephonsus, Abbas Montis Casini. It is reasonable to assume this certificate



and its medallion acknowledged the support for reconstruction of the monastery that Father Ferrick reported.



Figure 6: Certificate of gratitude from the abbot and monks of Montecassino to Sabbatino (sic) Iannetta. Archives of Holy Angels Church, Barrington, Rhode Island.

The signature on the certificate — Ildefonsus — and the date — March 20, 1949 — place the certificate during the years from 1945 to 1971 when Ildefonso Rea served as the 188th abbot of Montecassino.<sup>15</sup> He succeeded Gregorio Diamare, the monastery’s abbot who had died of malaria after returning to Montecassino following end of World War II.<sup>16</sup> He was confirmed as the monastery’s abbot on November 21, 1945, installed on December 8 of that year, and served as abbot until his retirement on April 17, 1971.<sup>17</sup> During his years at Montecassino, Abbot Ildefonso Rea oversaw the reconstruction of the abbey that bombardment and the long-running Battle of Montecassino had reduced to rubble.<sup>18</sup>



Figure 8: Aerial view showing the condition of the Abbey of Montecassino at the end of World War II. [telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/10838385/Prince-Harry-to-visit-scene-of-the-Battle-of-Monte-Cassino-on-70th-anniversary.html, accessed January 14, 2017.]

Reconstruction lasted from the period immediately following the end of World War II until the abbey’s reconsecration on October 24, 1964.<sup>19</sup> The final form of the abbey fulfilled D. Ildefonso Rea’s vision that reconstruction should result in a monastery “where it was, as it was” before the battle.<sup>20</sup>



Figure 7: The Rev. Ildefonso Rea, abbot of the Abbey of Montecassino, 1945 to 1971. [www.diocesisora.it/](http://www.diocesisora.it/), Web site of the Diocese of Sora–Aquino–Pontecorvo, accessed January 14, 2017.

Figure 9: Portrait of Father Sabatino Iannetta in his later years, possibly contemporaneous with his 1961 letter. Archives of Holy Angels Church.



This history reveals that Ildefonso Rea was the abbot ordinary of Montecassino in June 1961 when Father Iannetta sent his registered air mail letter from Barrington, Rhode Island, to Montecassino, the place of his boyhood studies, the inspiration for two books, and the object of his philanthropic labors. End of story.

### Steps on a Journey

Or is it? These historical hints and threads suggest that deep and abiding ties bound Father Sabatino Iannetta to the Abbey of Montecassino. Perhaps the letter that traveled from Barrington to Montecassino rests, to this day, in the monastery's archives. Whether typed or handwritten, it may have spoken of the project to reconstruct the abbey. Or, perhaps, it contained thoughts pertaining to the book *Triumph of Life*, which Father Iannetta published in 1963.

Regardless of the letter's contents, the deep feelings of devotion of the sender, Father Sabatino Iannetta, and the recipient, D. Ildefonso Rea, to the Benedictine life nurtured within the abbey's wall surely fit with the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who penned a poem to capture his mid-nineteenth-century experience of the Abbey at Montecassino. He wrote:

From the high window I beheld the scene  
On which Saint Benedict so often had gazed,—  
The mountains and the valley in the sheen  
Of the bright sun,—and stood as one amazed.

The conflict of the Present and the Past,  
The ideal and the actual in our life,  
As on a field of battle held me fast,  
Where this world and the next world were at strife.

Gray mists were rolling, rising, vanishing;  
The woodlands glistened with their jeweled crowns;  
Far off the mellow bells began to ring  
For Matins in the half-awaked towns.

For, as the valley from its sleep awoke,  
I saw the iron horses of the steam  
Toss to the morning air their plumes of smoke,  
and woke, as one awaketh from a dream.<sup>21</sup>

This account, then, tells a story of a bit of folded paper adorned with other bits of paper. Together, they conveyed some written message from a man who spent several decades in Italy studying, fighting, teaching, and leading before returning to Rhode Island. There, he served as a pastor, wrote books, and advocated for the reconstruction of the Abbey of Montecassino, his Italian home and school. Then, in the middle days of June 1961, he wrote a letter to another priest serving as the abbot of that same monastery. For now, that letter's envelope occupies a place in my collection, its most current stop on a journey that began in Barrington and took it to Montecassino and then to Ceccano before coming to Denton. End of story. Or is it?

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry S. Beecher. *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872–1996*. Portland, Oregon: Cama Publishing Company, 1996, p. 108.

<sup>2</sup> Wawrukiewicz, p. 233.

<sup>3</sup> <http://webpmt.usps.gov/pmt003.cfm>, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.delcampe.net>.

<sup>5</sup> Francis J. Giudice, *In Memoriam*, 17 September 1965, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> Sabatino Iannetta. *Triumph of Life: Destruction and Restoration of Montecassino*. Arpino, Italy: La Tipografica Arpinata, 1963, pp. 5–6.

<sup>7</sup> Giudice, *In Memoriam*, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Raymond J. Ferrick. Letter to the author. 3 July 2013, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> Patricia O'Neil. Review of *Henry W. Longfellow and Montecassino*. Dust-jacket notes.

<sup>10</sup> Ferrick, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> *Sixteenth Census of the United State: 1940*—Touro Street, Providence, Rhode Island. <http://>

1940census.archives.gov, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Sabatino Iannetta. *Henry W. Longfellow and Montecassino*, Boston: B. Humphries, Inc., 1940, p.13.

<sup>1</sup> Sabatino Iannetta. Letter to Mr. Gherini, 12 August 1941, p. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Ferrick, p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> <http://abbaziamontecassino.org/abbey/index.php/en/legacy/the-abbots-of-montecassino>, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Matthew Parker. *Monte Cassino: The Hardest-Fought Battle of World War II*. New York: Anchor Books, 2004, p. 352.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/brea.html>, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>18</sup> <http://abbaziamontecassino.org/abbey/index.php/en/legacy/montecassino-abbey-battle-wwii>, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2B7JoJ-vQ4>, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>20</sup> <http://abbaziamontecassino.org/abbey/index.php/en/component/content/article/44-legacy/the-revival-of-theabbey/164-rebuilding-the-abbey>, accessed 14 January 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Iannetta, *Longfellow*, pp. 52, 54.

**David M. Frye** is an active member of the Lincoln Stamp Club in Lincoln, Nebraska, and produces *The Souvenir Sheet*, the club's monthly newsletter. He collects and studies U.S. postal history of the 1960s and the postal history of Tanzania's post-Independence definitive series. His writings have appeared in *B.E.A.—The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle* and this journal. He is our Society's publicity chairman.

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### Alaska Mail Plane

David J. Pierson, in a memoir *On the Loose in Alaska, A Medical Student Discovers the Last Frontier*, describes the experience in 1967 of flight in a mail plane:

"Ever since my first bush trip, when I had first heard about and seen a Pilatus Porter, I'd been wanting to fly in one. They are the most unlikely-looking and most fantastic flying machines there are. Powered by a single turbo-jet engine, and only a little larger than a Cessna 180, the Porter will take off on less runway, carry a heavier load, and climb steeper and higher, than any other small plane. Winding up it sounds like nothing that ought to be in this world - more like a flying saucer than an airplane. A soft, deep 'oooo' grows louder and skyrockets through the frequencies, until you think your ears are going to shatter; the plane begins to roll, slowly, and then - what?? - you're going up at about a 30-degree angle. Where a 180 or Gregory's Cherokee 6 takes maybe 1000 feet to clear the ground, the Porter, looking more like a factory-reject sewing machine than any sort of aircraft, slides along for 100 feet or so, then up go the flaps and soon, up you go. And up, at a startling angle, even though it seems you're hardly moving: top speed is not much more than 100 miles per hour. I don't know whose idea the Porter was, but he wasn't an aesthete. The wings are thicker and wider than they ought to be, and completely rectangular in shape. No taper, no dip, no nothing. In fact, I'm told they make only one wing for the beast - and you can put it on either side. And the tail looks like they put on some metal sheets and forgot to cut out the pattern. Also strictly right-angled and rectangular, it sticks up higher than you'd think it should, and looks a whole lot heavier than necessary. The whole plane, in fact, looks twice as heavy as it would logically have to be to get off the ground. But, ahh, wait until you look up front. A peculiar three-bladed prop sits way out on the end of a ridiculously elongated snout, and behind the prop is an engine they would use for Titan missiles if it weren't too powerful for them. The Porter doesn't bother with weight limits and such: if it fits inside, it'll go up. And it will fit inside, too; the whole flank of the fuselage comes open on both sides, so that it looks like a nose and a tail with nothing in between."

# American Postal History in Other Journals

by Ken Grant

Many articles on U.S. postal history are published each month. In order to present a useful survey of recent publications, we adopt a rather narrow definition of postal history and present what is more an index than a literary endeavor. Unlike an index, however, the present listing contains very little cross-referencing; so that a reader interested in trans-Atlantic mail should check each geographical location from which such mail might have originated. Editors not finding their publication reviewed here need only make sure the publication is available to the U.S. Associate Editor, Ken Grant at E11960 Kessler Rd., Baraboo WI 53913.

## General Topics

### Air Mail

“Pass-A-Grille Beach National Air Mail Week ‘Special Flight’” by Steve Swain discusses a cover prepared by the Florida west coast town to commemorate National Air Mail Week. Fla. Post. Hist. Jour. 24 No.1 (January 2017)

Leonard Piskiewicz focuses on backstamps applied to early air mail in “Transit Markings on Early Registered Air Mail.” These backstamps were required on mail on July 6, 1925, and were intended to show how quickly the mail arrived at its destination. US Spec. 88 No. 1 (January 2017).

Jean Walton focuses on early air-sea mail in her article, “SS *Leviathan* Air-Sea – The New Jersey Connection.” Walton focuses on flights from the *Leviathan* from 1927-1929. NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

### Auxiliary Markings

In “Address Problems with Incoming Covers from Abroad,” John M. Hotchner presents auxiliary markings used to clarify confusion in addresses of mail with international origins. LaPosta 47 No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2016).

“Auxiliary Markings on Georgia Covers – ‘Missent’ and ‘Forwarded’” by Steve Swain looks at a cover sent from Columbus, Georgia to Roswell, Georgia with auxiliary markings applied in Marietta. Ga. Post Roads 25 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

### Civil War

“Lieutenant George Washington Tallmon” by Jim Peterson discusses two covers addressed to Lieutenant Tallmon a member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Iowa Post. Hist. Soc. Whole No. 279 (Oct., Nov., Dec., 2016).

Patricia A. Kaufmann’s “A Confederate Cover from Columbia (Gold) Mine, Georgia” examines the history of Georgia’s gold industry, which in the 1830s employed between 6,000 and 10,000 individuals in the mining industry. LaPosta 47 No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2016).

Maurice M. Bursey presents a number of covers addressed to Ralph Gorrell, a prominent North Carolinian attorney, and other members of his family in his article, “Some Civil War Covers Addressed to Ralph Gorrell and his Family.” No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

Tony L. Crumbley reviews prices realized from the Robert A. Siegel Auction of the Confederate and Union Occupation in “Largest North Carolina Confederate Cover Collection Sold.” No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

### **Post Offices**

“Greenbush, Wisconsin: Post Office Closed” by Paul T. Schroeder provides background on the Greenbush Post Office which opened on July 6, 1846 and closed October 1, 2016. *Badger Post. Hist.* 55 No. 3 (February 2016).

### **Railroad and Highway Post Offices**

The Florida Railroad is the subject of Deane R. Briggs article, “The Florida Railroad Provided Early Postal History.” The railroad was chartered in 1853, and construction began in 1855. Briggs illustrates both covers and banknotes connected to the Florida Railroad. *Fla. Post. Hist. Jour.* 24 No. 1 (January 2017).

James E. Byrne discusses the route taken by a cover carried by the Railway Mail Service in his article, “An Ishpeming & Chicago R.P.O. Cover with a Story to Tell.” Mailed at Negaunee, Michigan, the cover arrived in Chicago only to be readdressed to its ultimate destination in Wausau, Wisconsin. *Peninsula Phil.* 58 No. 4 (Winter 2017).

Douglas N. Clark returns to the classification of street car postmarks in his regular column “News from the Cities.” Clark discusses his “general types” with respect to street car postmarks from St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Boston. *Transit Post. Coll.* 68 No. 2 (January-February 2017).

William Keller focuses on the Louisville, Kentucky & St. Louis, Missouri HPO MPOS #122 in his regular column “Highway Post Offices.” Keller provides a map, timetables and postmarks to illustrate this Highway Post Office. *Transit Post. Coll.* 68 No. 2 (January-February 2017).

Douglas N. Clark illustrates twenty-one previously unlisted railroad postmarks in his regular column, “Unlisted Railroad Postmarks.” *Transit Post. Coll.* 68 No. 2 (January-February 2017).

### **Registered Mail**

“Update Census of U.S. Registry Exchange Labels (1883-1911): Part I” by Nicholas A. Lombardi focuses on the 35 exchange offices authorized to use registered mail labels and updates the previous work of Alfred F. Kugel. *US Spec.* 88 No.1 (January 2017).

“Update Census of U.S. Registry Exchange Labels (1883-1911): Part II” by Nicholas A. Lombardi continues the list of registry labels, this list focusing on Boston. *US Spec* 88 No. 2 (February 2017).

### **Transatlantic Mail**

Even if a cover is missing its contents, it has a story to tell according to Richard F. Winter in his article, “New York Ship Letter to Wilmington, N.C.” Using marking and notations on the front and reverse, Winter provides background of William Holly Hudson, the American Consul to Buenos Aires from 1854 to 1862. *So. Caro. Post. Hist.* 36 No. I (Winter 2017).

A letter sent by William H. Crisp, an actor, from Atlanta, Georgia to Bury, England is the subject of Francis J. Crown, Jr.’s, “An Atlanta Trans-Atlantic Cover.” Crown discusses the rates and markings on the cover as well as the background of the writer. *Ga. Post Road* 25 No. 1 (Winter 2017).

### **World War I**

Jesse I. Spector and Robert L. Markovits in “Espionage and Sedition in America in the First World War” recount the activities of Dr. Isaak Straus who was tasked by the German government with spreading pro-German propaganda in the then-neutral United States. *LaPosta* 47 No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2016).



“Coming Home to Michigan After WWI” by C. Wood features a postcard given to returning soldiers by the American Red Cross. The cover, addressed to Bangor, Michigan, announced the safe return of a soldier. *Peninsula Phil.* 59 No. 1 (Spring 2017).

### **World War II**

“COD Covers From a WWII Internment Camp” by Robert K. Akaki presents two Cash on Delivery covers which originated from Japanese-American internment camps in Denson, Arkansas. *US Spec.* 88 No. 4 (April 2017).

### **Alaska**

Steve Bahnsen presents contemporary color photographs of 18 Alaskan Post Offices in his article “Alaska Post Offices.” *LaPosta* 47 No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2016).

### **Dakota Territory**

Ken Stach presents the correspondence of Javan Bradley Irvine, an officer in military service from 1866 to 1874, in his article “Shot by an Indian – Javan B. Irvine in Dakota Territory.” Irvine was stationed at Fort Sully, now Pierre, South Dakota. *Dakota Coll.* 34 No. 1 (January 2017).

### **Iowa**

Jim Peterson writes about the three towns in Iowa that have been named Berlin in “Berlin...Berlin...and Berlin, Iowa.” These Berlins were located in Scott, Hardin, and Tama Counties. *Iowa Post. Hist. Soc. Whole No.* 279 (Oct., Nov., Dec., 2016). “International Mail to and from Iowa” by Bill Dall is the first of a new series looking at Iowa covers “from and to non-domestic areas.” *Iowa Post. Hist. Soc. Whole No.* 279 (Oct., Nov., Dec., 2016).

### **Florida**

In “Survey of Postmarks of the Christmas, Florida Post Office,” Christine C. Sanders reviews the various postmarks used by this post office located on State Road 50 between Orlando and Titusville. *Fla. Post. Hist. Jour.* 24 No. 1 (January 2017).

“Garey’s Ferry Postal History” by Deane R. Briggs discusses the history of the ferry located at the junction of the north and south fork of Black Creek, a tributary of the St. Johns River. Briggs illustrates his article with stampless covers connected to this early Florida ferry. *Fla. Post. Hist. Jour.* 24 No. 1 (January 2017).

A piece of mail sent from Key West, Florida to Columbus, Georgia by a private non-contract ship is the subject of Deane R. Briggs’ “A Jacksonville Ship 2 Marking.” *LaPosta* 47 No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2016).

### **Georgia**

Steve Swain’s, “Saint Simons Mills, GA – Island’s First Post Office” presents the history of the post office located on St. Simons Island, one of the four barrier islands that comprise the Golden Isles of Georgia. *Ga. Post Roads* 25 No. 1 (Winter 2017).

Steve Swain writes about an “Erroneous Savannah STEAMBOAT marking” in his article. The cover that is the subject of the article was carried aboard a contract steamer and thus should not have carried a STEAMBOAT straight-line marking. *Ga. Post Roads* 25 No. 1 (Winter 2017).

Auraria, Georgia, a discontinued post office, is the subject of Francis J. Crown, Jr.’s “Georgia on Covers. Auraria, located about six miles from Dahlonga, was at one time a Georgia gold rush community. The town lost population, and the post office closed in 1937. *Ga. Post Roads* 25 No. 1 (Winter 2017).

Lamar Garrard provides background information on a cover mailed from New York to Augusta, Georgia in “Travelling Agent Will Call.” The cover is addressed to James

McMaster, the editor of the Catholic Freeman's Journal. McMaster supported both slavery and secession. Ga. Post Roads 25 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

"Savannah 'Odd Fellows' Cover" by Steve Swain investigates a stampless cover sent from Savannah to Charleston containing an invitation to attend a Georgia Odd Fellows Anniversary event. Ga. Post Roads 25 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

### **Michigan**

Michigan star cancel killers are the subject of Charles Wood's "Still Seeing Stars – Salzburg, 1884." Wood also illustrates star killers from Ransom, Lowell, and Flushing, Michigan. Peninsula Phil. 58 No. 4 (Winter 2017)

Eric A. Glohr continues his series of articles on mail sent to and from Michigan, Michigan in "1848 Mail Forwarded to Michigan, Michigan." Michigan served as the name of the state of Michigan's capital city until it was changed to Lansing in April, 1848. Peninsula Phil. 58 No. 4 (Winter 2017).

Cary E. Johnson's article, "Hardluck: A True Michigan Ghost Town," focuses on the short life of Hardluck, Michigan, which had a post office from April 26, 1904 until August 31, 1906. Peninsula Phil. 59 No.1 (Spring 2017).

"Pardons for Three of the Conspirators Involved in The Great Railroad Conspiracy of 1850" by Eric A. Glohr illustrates a Free Frank cover containing papers awarding pardons to three farmers who burned down the Detroit train depot. Peninsula Phil. 59 No.1 (Spring 2017).

James E. Byrne in "Detroit Coded Postcard, December 1917" focuses on a Tuck post card mailed from Detroit with a message in Morse code. Byrne notes that the two stamps that frank the card were applied at an angle suggesting that the author may have been using a second code for an additional message. Peninsula Phil. 59 No. 1 (Spring 2017).

"Fentonville: A Comedy of Errors" by Cary E. Johnson looks at an early handstamp error. The individual who produced the circle-dater-handstamp ran out of room to produce FENTONVILLE MICH and instead substituted some lower case letters, resulting in FENTON VILLE. Peninsula Phil. 59 No. 1 (Spring 2017).

### **New Jersey**

Andy Kupersmit's article, "Addition to the Southard Correspondence: 'Rascality in Brazil,'" is the third article focusing on the Southard correspondence. Addressed to Samuel Southard, the 1827 folded letter refers to conflict taking place between the United States and the Brazilian government. NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

Ed and Jean Siskin add an eighteenth century cover from Trenton to their census in "Census of Early New Jersey Covers – Part 5" NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

"New Jersey Straight Line Handstamp Postmarks: One of a Kind" by Robert Rose illustrates a number of these one of a kind items previously in the William C. Coles, Jr. collection. NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

A 1784 cover addressed to "His Excellency the President of Congress" in Trenton is the subject of Ed and Jean Siskin's "Trenton as Our Nation's Capital." Early in our nation's history, the capital was whatever location the Congress was in session. NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

Donald A. Chafetz continues his series "Mail Sent Abroad To and From Morris County Part 3: Sweden" and notes that the transit time from New Jersey to the destination in Sweden ranged from 11 to 20 days. NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

Throughout the United States, communities changed their names during the WWI period

to avoid anti-German sentiment. Jean R. Walton presents a number of these name changes in "Philatelic Shorts: New Jersey Post Office Name Changes in WWI." NJPH 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

### **New York**

The desire to deliver mail from incoming ships more quickly is the subject of Leonard Piskiewicz's article, "New York Harbor Mail Boat Service." Mail boat with mail clerks were dispatched to expedite the mail of incoming ships. US Spec 88 No. 2 (February 2017).

### **North Carolina**

George Slaton in his article, "Black River Chapel Post Office" discusses the history of this South Carolina post office located 28 miles north northwest of Wilmington. Slaton illustrates his article with photographs and covers, including the only known Confederate cover sent from Black River Chapel. No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 1 (Winter 2016).

Greg Capps provides background on a postcard showing a bridge which is identified as the "Henry Bridge in Beaumont Gap," but what the author knew to be now called Helen's Bridge on Beaucatcher Mountain. His history of this local is presented in Capp's article, "The Old Glenrock Station...and a Spooky Post Card." No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 1 (Winter 2016).

"Constantine Alexander Hege and Salem Iron Works" by D. Wayne Burkette provides background on the founding of the Salem Iron Works after the Civil War. The article is illustrated with advertising covers from the C.A. Hege iron company of Salem, North Carolina. No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 1 (Winter 2016).

In "New Sterling: The Third Creek Settlement in Iredell County," by George Slaton provides historical background on New Sterling, North Carolina and the changes to postal service after the post office closed. No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

Tony L. Crumbley focuses on a western North Carolina post office in his article, "Valle Crucis - Watauga County Valley of the Cross." The post office was established in 1845 and continues in operation in the Mast General Store. No. Caro. Post. Hist. 36 No. 2 (Spring 2017).

### **Oregon**

The postal history of the settlement on the east bank of the Willamette River is the subject of Charles A. Neyhart, Jr.'s, "East Portland, Oregon: A Postal Heart Still Beats." Established in 1866, the East Portland Post Office operated until March 31, 1892 when it was discontinued. LaPosta 47 No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2016).

### **Pennsylvania**

Gus Spector discusses Franklin House, the business built nearby Benjamin Franklin's residence in the fourth article in his series on Philadelphia hotel markings, "Franklin House: The Complete Five Stories." Penn. Post. Hist. 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

"Major General Anthony Wayne Part II" by Daniel M. Telep introduces a cover mailed to the Revolutionary War General in 1793 by his friend Thomas Delany to the General at Fort Washington in Ohio. The cover carries a clear 24/AV Franklin mark and a manuscript 20-cents rate. The Complete Five Stories." Penn. Post. Hist. 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

"The Merchants' House/Black Bear Hotel 'Connection,'" by Gus Spector focuses on the contents of a cover from the Black Bear Hotel containing an estimate for that hotel's fire escape grillwork. The Complete Five Stories." Penn. Post. Hist. 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

Norman Shachat in "Not All that Glitters" presents postal rate information on three post cards sent in glassine envelopes because they contained glitter or a three-dimensional aspect. The glassine requirement was part of a regulation placed into effect on March

4, 1907. Penn. Post. Hist. 45 No. 1 (February 2017).

### **South Dakota**

“A South Dakota Flood – 1952” by Steven J. Berlin looks at a provisional manuscript cancel used by the postmaster in Fort Pierce when the Missouri River flooded. Dakota Coll. 34 No. 1 (January 2017).

Ken Stach reviews the post offices of Lake County, South Dakota in “Lake County Postal History.” Dakota Coll. 34 No. 1 (January 2017).

### **Texas**

“Member Sends in Duncanville, Texas, Cover from First Year of Operation” is a follow-up to an article on the Duncanville Post Office in the November 2016 issue of the journal. The cover is canceled on August 11, 1883, shortly after the office opened on October 2, 1882. Tex Post. Hist. Soc. J. 42 No. 1 (February 2017).

John J. Germann concludes his listing of Texas’ rural stations, rural branches, and community post offices in his article, “Forgotten Post Offices: Third of a Three-Part Series.” Covered in this part are post offices beginning with Mankins and ending with Woodlands. Tex Post. Hist. Soc. J. 42 No. 1 (February 2017).

### **Vermont**

Bill Lizotte in “The Post Horn” looks at a number of topics including varieties and errors in the spelling of Vermont on postal markings, an early Plymouth manuscript cancel, information on the name change from Barton Landing to Orleans, and a West Charlotte cover franked with both a 1 and 2 cent 1869 issue. The Vermont Phil. 62 No. 1 (February 2017).

“Vermont Slogan Machine Cancels (Part 3) lists markings from Battleboro through Burlington, Vermont. The Vermont Phil. 62 No. 1 (February 2017).

“Vermont Non-Standard Postmarks in Review” by Bill Lizotte provides a listing of these markings that “do not conform to the normal standards of postmarks used in this country.” He illustrates samples of target killers, Doane, and 4-Bar cancels that mimic the standard postmarks. The Vermont Phil. 62 No. 1 (February 2017).

### **Wisconsin**

John Paré provides additional background on Henry O. Meisel’s covers connected by air mail courier service by motorcycle in his article, “Henry O. Meisel – Clintonville Coverman – Part III Meisel and the Indian Motorcycle Company. Badger Post. Hist. 55 No. 3 (February 2016).

### **Journal Abbreviations**

Badger Post. Hist. = *Badger Postal History*, Ken Grant, E11960 Kessler Rd. Baraboo WI 53913 and William B. Robinson, 1641 Bruce Ln., Green Bay WI 54313-5503.

Collect. Club Phil = *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Gene Fricks, 22 E. 35th St, New York NY 10016-3806

Dakota Coll. = *Dakota Collector*, Editor Gary Anderson, PO Box 600039, St. Paul, MN 55106

Ga. Post Roads = *Georgia Post Roads*, Douglas N. Clark, Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648.

Ia. Post. Hist. Soc. Bull. = *Iowa Postal History Society Bulletin*, William Dall, Box 1375, Dubuque IA 52004.

Ill. Post. Hist. = *Illinois Postal Historian*, Leonard Piskiewicz, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara CA 95051.

La Posta = *La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History*, Peter Martin, Box 6074, Fredericksburg VA 22403.

No. Caro. Post. Hist. = *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Tony L. Crumbley, Box 681447, Charlotte NC 28216.

NJPH = *NJPH The Journal of New Jersey Postal History Society*, Robert G. Rose, Box 1945, Morristown NJ 07062.  
Oh. Post. Hist. J. = *Ohio Postal History Journal*, Alan Borer, 568 Illinois Ct., Westerville OH 43081.  
Okla. Phil. = *The Oklahoma Philatelist*, Reggie Hofmaier, 4005 Driftwood Circle, Yukon OK 73099.  
Pa. Post. Hist. = *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, Norman Shachat, 382 Tall Meadow Ln, Yardley PA 19067.  
Peninsular Phil. = *The Peninsular Philatelist*, Charles A. Wood, 244 Breckenridge West, Ferndale MI 48220.  
Prexie Era = *The Prexie Era*, Louis Fiset, 7554 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115-1302.  
Tenn. Posts = *Tennessee Posts*, L. Steve Edmondson, P.O. Box 871, Shelton WA 98594.  
Tex. Post. Hist. Soc. J. = *Texas Postal History Society Journal*, Tom Koch, 1013 Springbrook Dr., De Soto TX 75115.  
Trans. Post. Coll. = *Transit Postmark Collector*, Douglas N. Clark, Box 427, Marstons Mills MA 02648.  
US Spec. = *The United States Specialist*, Leonard Piskiewicz, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara CA 95051.  
Vermont Phil. = *The Vermont Philatelist*, Glenn A. Estus, Box 451 Westport NY 12993-0147.

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## American Air Mail Updated: a review by Alan Warren

*American Air Mail Catalogue, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Volume Two: Polar Aerophilately*, compiled, written and edited by Hal Vogel. 492 pages, 7<sup>1/2</sup> by 10<sup>1/2</sup> inches, hardbound, American Air Mail Society, Mineola, N.Y., 2016. ISBN 0-939429-28-4, \$100 plus shipping from the American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823 USA or [www.stamps.org/Publications](http://www.stamps.org/Publications). Discounts available to AAMS and APS members—see APS web site for details.

This priced catalog of polar aviation-related mail took a decade to create and stands as the definitive listing of such material. Introductory pages define Polar global geographic areas, mail flown outside a postal system, pioneer and contract and foreign air mail (CAM/FAM), flights over the Poles, airship polar flights, expedition support flights, and many other topics.

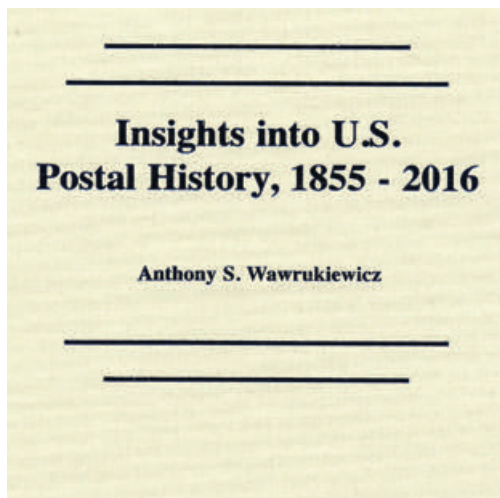
The catalog listings begin with early 19<sup>th</sup> century material. Approximate values are indicated based on market information, and some extremely rare items are described with quantities known. Many items are shown in color and large enough to reveal details. Entries often include several paragraphs of descriptive text that provide background as well as important data on routes, markings, dates, types of aircraft, and pilots.

The listing is in chronological order and on a worldwide basis. Entries end with 2007. Following the catalog listing is a chapter that expands on several major topics like the 1925 Amundsen North Pole flight cards, Wilkins' 1926-1928 Arctic flights to establish the polar basin route, lighter than air flights, Zeppelin Polar flights, clarification of cachets recording first over and landing at the South Pole as well as first North Pole air mail, and modern round-the-world and record flights. A 5-page Polar aerophilately glossary concludes the catalog.

This magnificent volume constitutes the authoritative resource for describing and valuing Polar aerophilatelic mail that is related to both major flights as well as many lesser known ones that are still significant landmarks in this complex field. The advantage that this catalog has over simple date and value listings is the deeply researched descriptions of the listed material that will enable collectors to understand what they have or need to look for. Highly recommended.



## U.S. Insights: a review by Alan Warren



*Insights into U.S. Postal History, 1855-2016* by Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz. 240 pages, 8<sup>1/2</sup> by 11<sup>1/2</sup> inches, hardbound, American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte, Pa., 2016. ISBN 978-0-933580-79-4, \$50 (\$40 to APS members) plus shipping from [www.stamps.org/Publications](http://www.stamps.org/Publications) or American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823.

Author Anthony Wawrukiewicz is no stranger to the field of postal history, in view of his landmark compilations (with Henry Beecher) of United States domestic and international rates and the multitude of articles that have appeared in *Linn's Stamp News*, *Auxiliary*

*Markings* and elsewhere. He receives so many inquiries from collectors, either directly or as a result of one of his articles, that he decided to share his research with a much wider audience.

He has grouped the information into themed chapters where he discusses these topics in detail. Tony begins with short paid U.S. domestic mail, providing a chronological table of how the post office handled such items from 1855 to the present. Mail was held for postage, returned to sender, assessed postage due including double the deficiency, or with other methods. Examples are shown bearing a variety of auxiliary markings.

The second chapter focuses on mail held for postage during the period 1855 to 1958, with input from co-authors Leonard Piskiewicz, Thomas Breske, and the late David Straight. A preliminary catalog listing of the auxiliary markings on this topic (18 pages) presents examples and when and where they were used. Another fascinating chapter shows attempted use of invalid postage: postal stationery cut-and-pasted indicia, labels, foreign stamps, bisects, revenues, etc.

The Dead Letter Office and its purposes and markings are described in one chapter, and two more chapters deal with post and postal cards that were returned to the writer either because they did not meet the rules for mailing or were undeliverable. Another chapter addresses domestic and international airmail forwarding. Problems in handling or mishandling business reply mail have their own chapter.

An entire chapter describes the colored pressure-sensitive stickers found on presorted and packaged mail to speed up delivery. These labels with letters or numbers are placed on bundles that are directed to a specific city or state or zip code or sectional center facility. The period covers the use of these labels from 1974 to date. Another curious topic is the use of the rate change non-denominated letter stamps on international mail. The postal service stated initially that they were not to be used on foreign mail but later announcements appeared in the *Postal Bulletin* that indicated such use was permitted.

Douglas Quine wrote a chapter devoted to the POSTNET barcodes used from 1982 to 2013 to automate handling of flat mail. Topics he covers include mailer-applied codes,

print technologies, OCR and printing errors, and other aspects of this process. For those who know and use Tony's U.S. domestic and international rate books, he includes an appendix with additions and corrections to all of the editions.

Important tools that he used to research the subjects of this book are the *Postal Bulletin* (1880-2016), *The U.S. Postal Laws and Regulations* (1794-1948), *The Postal Manual* (1954-1970), the *Domestic Mail Manual* (1979-2016), and the *International Mail Manual* (1979-2016) among other resources. He provides the locations of these on web sites or in libraries in his second appendix to this book. A 3-way index concludes this amazing reference book identifying subjects and whether they are found in the text, tables, or figures.

One other unusual feature of Tony's book was created by the fact that he chose to begin each new chapter with a new right-hand page. Sometimes the layout caused the preceding left-hand page to be blank. He has filled these pages with wonderful color photographs that he took over the years showing nature scenes of the Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, the Oregon coast, and fall colors.

Our thanks go to Tony and his co-authors for another important reference for students of United States postal history.

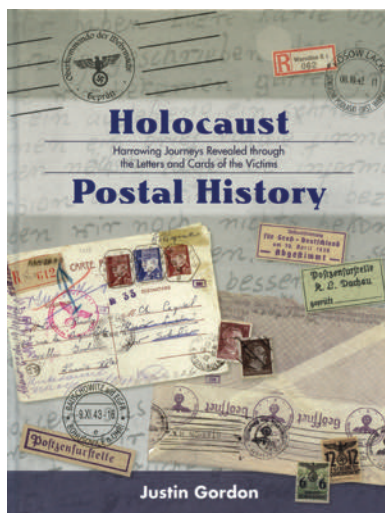
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## Holocaust Letters: a review by Alan Warren

*Holocaust Postal History* by Justin Gordon. 188 pages, 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> by 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches, casebound, Sixpoint Watermark, Chicago, Ill., 2016. ISBN 978-0-9978401-0-0, \$29.95 plus \$4 shipping in USA, from Holocaust Postal History, c/o Justin Gordon, 3368 W. Devon Ave., Lincolnwood IL 60712, or [www.holopostal.com](http://www.holopostal.com).

Stories of the Holocaust have been told using books, theatre, film, museums, exhibitions, art, music, i.e., just about every medium and genre. The purpose and scope of Justin Gordon's book is best described with its subtitle: "Harrowing Journeys Revealed through the Letters and Cards of the Victims."

These written communications related to the Holocaust can also be used to tell these stories. Gordon has gone further by researching the senders and recipients of the postal history items he displays to bring the human element to our attention, thus intensifying the horrors that he unfolds. The material he describes combines both history and postal history through his research and analysis.



For many years the author informed youngsters and community groups about this monstrous blot on mankind in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He combines the subject of the Holocaust with his longtime interest in collecting stamps and postal history. He tells the story partly chronologically but also by topic.

Concomitant with the rise of Hitler and the Third Reich were the increasing propaganda and laws and decrees that victimized Jews. Anti-Semitic labels, early

censorship, the establishment of camps, the enforced use of “Israel” and “Sara” as part of Jewish family names in correspondence, the confiscation of Jewish property and other restrictions are documented with covers. Many of the markings on the covers as well as the written contents and messages on cards and in letters are translated into English.

A chapter on ghettos reveals mail of relief organizations, censor markings, ghetto post offices and philatelic mail, Red Cross reply cards, special stamps and cancellations, and handling of incoming and outgoing mail. A chapter on Concentration Camps provides similar treatment with many examples of the special postcards that required personal identification details and forbade use of Yiddish or Hebrew — correspondence should be in German. Examples are seen from Dachau, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, Sachsenhausen, and Auschwitz.

Thus not all ghettos and camps are included. The author’s intent is to educate with specific examples of postal items. He also hopes to attract some non-collectors as some of his cover descriptions are often simplistic. He refers to the stamps shown as “Hitler heads” or “Hindenburg heads” and rate information is often lacking. Thus casual readers or collectors are not overwhelmed with the minutiae of postal history.

One other category explored is the world of the Judenarbeitslager or special camps where Jews were assigned slave labor projects such as road improvement, major construction, agriculture, and factory work. Special postal cards were used and the author provides English translations of work assignment cachets, reply-instruction cachets, and similar markings.

One other interesting topic, titled “Unsung Heroes,” shows examples of mail of those who offered tireless support to their fellow Jews. This section includes Alfred Szwarcbaum and Abraham Silberschein in Switzerland, and the Kreh brothers in Italy. Two pieces of mail sent by displaced persons after the war ended are shown.

Appendices include abbreviations of currency for about a dozen countries mentioned in the book, a glossary of philatelic terms, a glossary of the postage stamps and stationery indicia illustrated on covers in the book, an extensive 12-page bibliography of resources, and an index.

The book is not intended to be a definitive history nor postal history of the Holocaust, but rather brings an immediacy to these topics by personalizing the senders and recipients, in other words the victims of these atrocities. Two of the book’s strengths are the English translations of the censorship markings, and the illustration of a wide variety of printed postcard and letter forms used by victims in camps and ghettos.

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## **Foreign Relief in Great War Stockholm: a review by Alan Warren**

Die ausländische Hilfsvereine in Stockholm während des Ersten Weltkrieges (The Foreign Relief Societies in Stockholm during the First World War) by Burkhard Koop. 106 pages, 6<sup>1/2</sup> by 9<sup>1/2</sup> inches, perfect bound, in German, self-published by the author, Oldenburg, Germany, 2016. €10 plus postage from Burkhard Koop, Ziegelhofstrasse 7, 26121 Oldenburg, Germany, or by email to burkhardkoop@t-online.de.

During the First World War several relief or aid or “benevolent” societies offered help to the families of detainees, prisoners of war, and internees. Since Sweden was neutral during the war, these organizations were based in Stockholm. The primary one was the German Relief Society whose roots in Sweden go back to the last quarter of the

19th century. Its activity increased drastically during WW I when various offices were established in Stockholm through which donations and mail were conveyed, and research was undertaken to locate civil and military personnel.

Koop's book dwells largely on the support of Germans seeking information about POWs held in Russia. A variety of preprinted postal cards were available to relatives and a number of these, postally used, are shown. Some of them bear censorship markings. A few covers are also illustrated from Africa, South America, and elsewhere. Some mail originated from detained ships like the German vessel *Parma* that sailed to Chile to pick up saltpeter (potassium nitrate) used to make gunpowder. Preprinted value letters were also used for remittance of funds, often bearing wax seals on the reverse.

In addition to the German aid society there were similar ones established by Austro-Hungary, Poland, and Russia in Stockholm, seeking connection to POWs held in Germany. Some used examples of their specially printed stationery are also shown. A brief mention of the Swedish Red Cross Help Committee for POWs concludes the text. A bibliography provides some of the sources used by the author.

The color scans are a little on the light side so that some of the markings are not completely discernible, nor are they explained. However, for military postal historians and postal stationery collectors seeking a fascinating niche of material, this book offers something off the beaten track.

Die  
**ausländischen Hilfsvereine**  
in Stockholm

während des Ersten Weltkrieges



Burkhard Koop

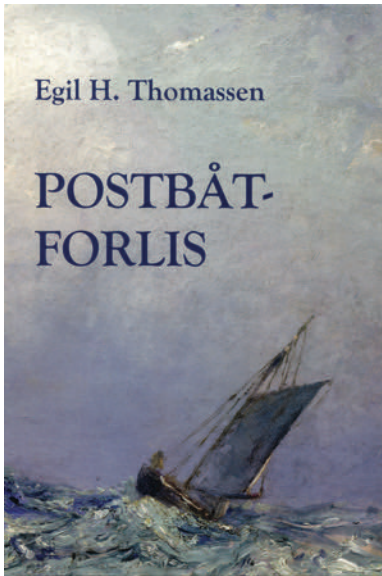
## Norwegian Mail Boats: a review by Alan Warren

Postbåtforlis 1691-1907 (Mailboats Lost) by Egil H. Thomassen. 128 pages, 6<sup>1/2</sup> by 9<sup>1/2</sup> inches, hard-bound, in Norwegian, Skanfil, Haugesund, Norway, 2016. ISBN 978-82-93535-21-9, 250 NOK (\$30) plus postage from Skanfil AS, Box 2020, Haugesund 5504, Norway, or [www.skanfil.no](http://www.skanfil.no).

During the 18th and 19th centuries, over 80 open mail boats crashed along the Norwegian coast. Mail, much of it damaged, was salvaged from half of these wrecks. Author Egil Thomassen is usually associated with aerophilately. However, in this book he now records chronologically the details of these mail boat losses.

For each event he identifies the locale, the route, and details of the tragedy. Minor incidents have a brief paragraph while major events can run one or more pages. Notes indicate if mail was lost and whether there was also loss of postal personnel or any survivors. The names of those working in the postal service that were involved with the event are mentioned.

In most cases unnamed small mail boats were involved and there has not been a central record of these tragedies until now. Practically no examples of letters are shown. Illustrations consist primarily of maps, old prints, and photos. Thomassen has thoroughly researched the events using government archives, museum records, postal history



sources, knowledgeable collectors, and special libraries.

One table lists the instances where mail was salvaged showing the route, the place of departure, and the date and place where the loss occurred. A name index lists those involved with the incident, whether or not they died as a result, and whether or not they were a member of the postal service. The list includes those who were boat rowers, sailors, passengers, postal inspectors, or others together with their occupations.

Thomassen provides sources for each incident including church records and newspaper articles. This book will be especially useful for those who have “home” collections and seek to identify salvaged mail. The layout is pleasing to the eye and the illustrations bring us closer to each of these sad events.

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## Foreign Postal History in Other Journals

Thanks to the several members who contributed. Copies of journals should be sent to the Associate editor, Daniel Piazza, National Postal Museum, P.O. Box 37012 MRC 570, Washington DC 20013-7012

### East Africa

“The Naval Africa Expedition—World War One: A Synopsis and Chronology with a Census of Known Postal Items from the Expedition,” by Eric Coulton, briefly surveys existing histories of the expedition, summarizes its events, and provides a tabular census of the twenty-five known covers, illustrating seven. B.E.A.—The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle, Vol. 19, No. 111, Sept. 2015, pp. 58–68. (Hon. Secretary Michael Vesey-FitzGerald, Gambles Cottage, 18 Clarence Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7AL Great Britain.)

“Tanganyika Travelling Post Offices—Part 4,” by Eric Coulton, continues an illustrated study of Tanganyika’s TPOs that transported mail between Daressalaam and the inland destinations of Kigoma and Mwanza between February 1932 and September 1934. B.E.A. Vol. 19, No. 112, Jan. 2016, pp. 9–16.

“World War II North American Air Mail before Pearl Harbor,” by Nick Guy, coordinates a summary of the period’s blended air and sea mail transport routes with analyses of the origins, markings, and destinations of covers that traversed those routes. B.E.A. Vol. 19, No. 112, Jan. 2016, pp. 17–21.

“Zanzibar 1876–1880,” by John Minns, FRPSL, offers an illustrated exploration of a portion of the Consulate Post period (1875–1878), naval mail originating from H.M.S. London while based in Zanzibar in 1878, and mail routed through Great Britain’s post office in Aden (1876–1880). B.E.A. Vol. 20, No. 113, May 2016, pp. 28–32.

“Jewish Internment ‘Special Camp’ at Gilgil,” by Bill Clark, provides a brief historical



- sketch of a post-WWII British camp in Kenya that held Zionist Palestinians until two months following the formation of Israel in 1948. Three covers illustrate the types of mail that entered and left the camp. B.E.A. Vol. 20, No. 113, May 2016, pp. 43–47.
- “Marcus Falloon (1872–1953): Part I,” by Jonathan Smalley, begins a portrayal of a British philatelist who served as a private in the Nairobi Volunteers in the first decade of the twentieth century and as a WWI chaplain and missionary in East Africa from 1914 to 1916. B.E.A. Vol. 20, No. 114, Sept. 2016, pp. 53–55.
- “Tanganyika Travelling Post Offices—Part 5,” by Eric Coulton, continues an illustrated study of Tanganyika’s TPOs that transported mail between Daressalaam and the inland destination of Tabora from 1934 to 1959. This installment focuses on the regularization of the cancellers employed by the clerks in the TPOs. B.E.A. Vol. 20, No. 114, Sept. 2016, pp. 58–61.
- “1961–1973 Air Mail from Tanganyika and Tanzania to Europe: Inferring Rates from a Census of Postal Covers,” by David M. Frye, surveys the markings on air mail letters during the specified period and derives from the results a succession of two 0.5 oz. rates: TZS 1/30 and 1/50. Several covers franked with issues from post-independence definitive series illustrate the surveyed rates. B.E.A. Vol. 20, No. 114, Sept. 2016, pp. 70–73.
- “Marcus Falloon (1872–1953): Part II,” by Jonathan Smalley, continues a portrayal of a British philatelist and chaplain. While serving with the Indian Expeditionary Force (IEF) in East Africa, he accumulated East Africa campaign postal history. B.E.A. Vol. 21, No. 114, Jan. 2017, pp. 4–7.
- “Kenya’s Speedpost,” by Nick Guy, offers a brief introduction to and survey of covers illustrating a thirty-five-year history of a premium delivery service. Illustrations show frankings, etiquette labels, and docketing of this express mail service with both domestic and foreign destinations. B.E.A. Vol. 21, No. 114, Jan. 2017, pp. 17–20.

#### **France**

Anthony Presgrave reported on a balloon-carried letter mysteriously turning up in Australia, in “Paris Hot Air Balloon Letter Belonged To Lawyer In Imperial Court, *Journal of the Malta Philatelic Society* Vol 46/1 April 2017. 34 Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street, Ta’Xbiex MSD 11, Malta, G.C.

#### **Malta**

Albert Ganado discussed the Great War prisoners held on Malta in “The Camp Nachrichten published by the Prisoners of War in Malta in 1914–1916, *Journal of The Malta Philatelic Society* Vol 46/1 April 2017.

#### **Switzerland**

The Helvetia Philatelic Society Newsletter for March reprinted, with permission, Edith M. Faulstich’s article “Fifteenth Century Letters Reveal History of the Famed Geneva Fairs” that appeared in a December 1961 *Postal History Journal*.

# Looking Back: Seven Decades of Collecting Latin America

by Leo J. Harris

Recently while fussing over a beer at a happy hour gathering I focused my attention on the past happy years which I have spent with philately. I quickly realized what an important part of my life that stamp collecting has played: the friends I have made, the places that collecting has taken me, and the things that I have been able to contribute. These have all been important to me. Lamentably, my focus was narrow yet the topic (Latin America) was large. Nonetheless, I hope that my experiences encourage other old timers to reminisce a bit and even guide a few younger collectors to the many possibilities in collecting which they, in turn, can pursue.

These, then, are my recollections of over seventy years of collecting.

I became a stamp collector when I was nine years old. As a representative of the United States Department of Commerce my father went to Ecuador and Peru in 1943, seeking out sources for balsa wood to use in life preservers for American air force pilots who might be shot down and over the Pacific Ocean. He returned home with a large suitcase full of postage stamps as a gift for me. I was hooked for life!

The first serious collector whom I met was John Funkhouser, a former Creole Company oil executive who had lived for many years in South America. His collecting interest was the classic issues of Ecuador, as was mine at that time. Together we joined the only then-existing Latin American collectors club, the Pan American Philatelic Federation, whose president was Peter B. Wright. For the magazine of that Federation I wrote my first philatelic article, concerning the 1907 school overprints of Ecuador.<sup>1</sup>

Funkhouser and I collaborated in writing the Ecuador section of the American Philatelic Society (APS) exposé of the forgeries of Raoul Ch. De Thuin.<sup>2</sup> Shortly thereafter Funkhouser was murdered in his Virginia home and his extensive collection was sold at auction. I represented Albert Quast at that auction. Quast was a former World War II U-boat captain from Hamburg, Germany. Quast assembled a number of world-class Latin American collections which were eventually auctioned in the late 1970s.

My introduction to organized philately came from Will Reiner Deutsch, one of the founders of the Postal History Society. He introduced me to serious philatelic writing and I wrote my first article for the *Postal History Journal* in 1962. That was followed by twelve more. He also introduced me to international exhibiting, helping me to prepare my first exhibit for the show held in Nuremberg, Germany in 1963. The current editor of the *PHJ* is Diane DeBlois, an incredibly competent friend to all aspiring postal history writers.

During the ten years my wife Moira and I lived in the Washington, DC area I met George Turner, who was president of the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition (SIPEX), held in Washington in 1966. I served as a co-chairman of one of the SIPEX committees. Turner had, at the time, one of the largest private philatelic libraries in the country. Following his death I was able to acquire for my library a number of Latin American references from the landmark auction of the Turner library.

With little information or interest in Latin American stamps available in the United States I was forced to seek information and collecting help elsewhere. My first mentor was Jorge Ayora of Quito, Ecuador, who was the son and grandson of Ecuadorean presidents. In 1969 Jorge Ayora dedicated one of his most important writings to me.<sup>3</sup>

Another important mentor was John Fosbery, an English collector who specialized in the covers of Chiapas (a department first of Guatemala and later of Mexico). He was also the founding editor of the only English-language publication dealing with Latin America, *The Mainsheet: the Quarterly Journal of the Spanish Main*. I wrote eleven articles for that journal which lasted from 1972 until 1992.

Still another important Latin American contact was Captain Alboran Dujmovic, an émigré from Yugoslavia who settled in Guayaquil, Ecuador. He and his friends in the Club Filatelico de Guayaquil published my first philatelic book which dealt with the airmails of Ecuador.<sup>4</sup> Later I sold my Ecuador collection to Hugo Goeggel Imfeld of Bogota, Colombia. I remember vividly when my wife and I visited his home we traveled in a bullet-proof Land Rover with an iron-plated body.<sup>5</sup> At that time Colombian businessmen were constantly threatened with kidnapping.

It was difficult in those years to find stamp dealers with major stocks of Latin American material who were also knowledgeable on the subject. Douglas P. Ball and his son Bruce Ball (of Miami), Bill Boggs of the New England Stamp Company (in Boston), and Louis J. Horovitz of Sunnyvale, California, come prominently to mind. Foreign dealers with exceptional materials included Brian Moorhouse of England and, more recently, the international auction house, Soler y Llach of Barcelona, Spain.

A number of important Latin American collectors in the United States whom I knew included Alex Rendon, whose collection of Colombian airmail covers was absolutely unsurpassed. If I remember correctly, he showed a single frame of his airmails in competition against several five and eight frame exhibits and his exhibit won the grand award! Other collectors included Norman Hubbard who formed numerous Latin American collections, Fredrick Mayer who had the best collection in the world of early Costa Rica material, Roger K. Frigstad who assembled a vast collection of the early issues of Guatemala, James Mazepa who brought together important collections of Mexico and the stampless letters of Central America, and Bob D'Elia whose Ecuador collection garnered international large gold medals. More recently there was Floyd E. Risvold with his superb collection of Spanish colonial postal history from California, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana,<sup>6</sup> and Dr. Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., with his international gold collections of Cuba and ocean mail between Spain and Latin America.

Central and South American collectors whom I knew included Ignacio (Nick) Agurcia, a hotel owner in Honduras. During the 1990s I flew to Tegucigalpa with the ostensible aim of purchasing Nick's prestamp Honduras collection. Alas, he had sold it just days earlier to Nazry Bendeck, an international exhibitor of Central American postal history and also a resident of Tegucigalpa. My wife and I also traveled to Medellin, Colombia, to visit Juan Santa Maria whose ancestors included grandees from Spanish colonial times and important government officials after Colombian independence. Santa Maria was well-known for his Colombian collections and philatelic writing. We were there at the time of the difficulties with Pablo Escobar, the narcotics dealer, and recall the sound of a bomb blast as we checked into our hotel and the noise of metal shop-screens quickly descending in the neighborhood.

Lima, Peru, was the home of Jose C. Colareta who wrote the important catalogue on the prestamp postmarks of Peru. During a visit there, I acquired the so-called second Colareta collection, a vast trove of these early letters, purchased from Jose Antonio de Valle, an important Peruvian collector. In Santiago, Chile, I had had the privilege of

meeting with Derek Palmer who had formed a magnificent collection of Pacific Steam Navigation Company materials and was the world's expert on the subject. Mention should be made finally of Herbert Moll, dean of Peruvian collectors, and Aldo Salvattecchi Amador, an expert in postal history research.

In the 1980s I met Joseph M. Sousa of State College, Pennsylvania. Sousa was a veteran of the international brigade that fought on the losing side of the Spanish Civil War. After his service in Spain he joined the US Marines and served in Nicaragua, among other foreign assignments. His stay in Nicaragua allowed him to assemble a mammoth collection of stamps and covers of that country. One day I received a telephone call from Sousa who told me, "John, I am not well and must sell my collection to you so that I can pay my medical bills." Two days later he was on my doorstep with forty-five volumes of Nicaraguan material in the trunk of his car. Weeks later he was dead. Serious Nicaraguan collectors will recall *Nicaro*, the philatelic journal of the Nicaraguan Study Group which was published through about 2007.

State College was also the residence of Bill Welch, the town's mayor and the longtime editor of *The American Philatelist*. Welch's specialty was the Seebeck issues of Latin America so he also served as editor of *The Seebecker*, the journal for collectors interested in that subject.

When we lived in Brussels, Belgium, one of our visitors was Dr. Fernando Camino, a Spanish collector and postal historian. A medical doctor who served in Franco's army during the Spanish Civil War, Camino assembled a magnificent collection of Latin American postal history. Even today collectors still refer to the auction catalogue of the Camino collection.

While we lived in Belgium I often crossed the English Channel to visit the clubhouse of the Royal Philatelic Society, especially to consult its fabulous library. I had become a Fellow of the RPS in 1969 and later was privileged to publish several articles in the society's magazine, *The London Philatelist*.

Other collectors whom we were able to meet while we lived in Europe were Kilian Nathan of Zurich who assembled a large gold medal winning-Nicaraguan stamp collection and Cornelius Th. J. Hooghuis, a Dutch businessman who retired to Madrid. He compiled a most important collection of Spanish ocean mail sent to and from Latin American ports. One trip to Madrid involved meetings with Cor Hooghuis and Salvador Bofarull, a philatelic collector and writer whose knowledge of local history enlivened our visit.

Some collectors, who exhibit later, take the next step by becoming exhibition judges. Bernard W. (Bud) Hennig, longtime Guatemala collector, president of the 1986 international stamp exhibition held in Chicago, and APS chairman of philatelic judging, introduced me to that world. I was privileged to judge over twenty shows, serving as chief judge at five of them. F. Burton (Bud) Sellers, a former APS president, suggested further opportunities by becoming an F.I.P. international judge. I served my apprenticeship at the international show in Rio de Janeiro in 1993. Bud Sellers appointed me as the APS representative to the F.I.A.F (the Federacion Interamericana de Filatelia), the international body coordinating inter-American philatelic matters. I spent five years in that post, eventually becoming its vice president. As the representative of the APS I followed the noted Cuban-American collector, Dr. Roberto M. Rosende, and was succeeded by James Mazepa.

As my account indicates, collectors have established groups limited to their specialized interests. Henry Madden, a longtime collector of Guatemalan postal history, was a founding member of the ISGC, the International Society of Guatemalan Collectors. Madden, Bud

Hennig, and James C. (Jim) Andrews purchased a nearly complete collection of Central American Papel Sellado or stamped revenue paper. Before that collection was broken up and sold, I was given the opportunity to prepare a catalogue of that elusive material. I wrote that catalogue with Cécile Gruson, daughter of a Swiss ambassador to Guatemala and a noted collector of Guatemalan postal history.<sup>7</sup> Later Madden telephoned, asked me to visit, and noted that he wished to sell his collection to me as he was dying of cancer.

I participated in my share of international and domestic stamp exhibitions and, along with a handful of other exhibitors, became a charter member of the American Philatelic Exhibitors Society (APES) of which Randy Neil, a past APS president, was the founder.

In 2003 I was named as a corresponding member of the Real Academia Hispanica de Filatelia (the R.A.H.F.). This is the foremost Spanish collectors group, devoted to studies of Spanish and Latin American philately and postal history. I have been privileged to write or co-author five articles for their prize-winning Spanish-language journal, *Academvs*. Pending publication is a book to which I and several other RAHF members contributed, dealing with the Correos Mayores, the early private postmasters of Latin America.<sup>8</sup>

During my years of collecting I assembled and sold collections of Ecuadorean and Nicaraguan stamps, the SCADTA airmails of Colombia, postal history of the Galapagos Islands, the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, the stampless covers of Peru, and the postal history of Central America. Currently, in the twilight of my collecting years, I am working on the postal history of Mexico City from 1580 to 1856. Based on items I had collected, I wrote two books that were published by the Collector Club of New York and the Federacion Interamericana de Filatelia. Collaborators on the Ecuador prestamp postmark book were Percy Bargholtz of Sweden, a noted collector of Peruvian material, and Rodrigo Pérez Terán, a former postmaster general of Ecuador. Those who worked with me on the postmarks of prestamp Central America included Richard A. Washburn, Henry Madden, and Ignacio Agurcia.

The United States has long been an absolute desert for collectors seeking to find a Champion of Champions exhibition devoted to Latin America. To my knowledge there has only been one such show so far, Sescal/Americas 2008. This show, held in Los Angeles, was cosponsored by FIAF and the Federated Stamp Clubs of Southern California and chaired by James Mazepa.

As might be obvious by now, I enjoy writing on philatelic and postal history matters. I was a columnist for *Stamps Magazine* from 1988 until 1991, writing on “Latin America,” and for *Stamp Collector Magazine* from 1992 until 1997, writing “Latin American Notebook.” I served as a consultant for the Scott catalogues from 1981 until 1991, wrote five articles for *The American Philatelist* and three for the *Congress Book* of the American Philatelic Congress.

I have attended every international philatelic exhibition held in the United States since 1966. Looking forward, I have told Dr. Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., who is one of the organizers of the international show scheduled for Boston in 2026, that if I am unable to be there in person, I will certainly come back and haunt the place!

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Leo J. Harris, “Ecuador – The 1907 Educational Overprints,” *Pan American Philatelist* (May 1956).

<sup>2</sup> Leo J. Harris and John Funkhouser, “Ecuador,” in James M. Chemi, editor. *The Yucatan Affair: The Work of Raoul Ch. De Thuin, Philatelic Counterfeiter* (State College, PA: American Philatelic Society, 1974).



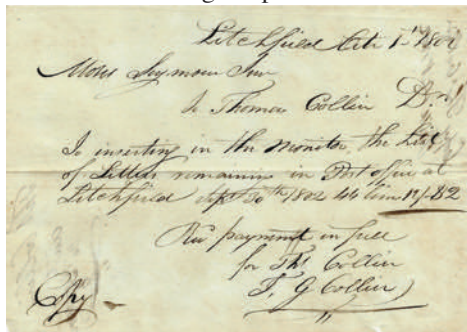
- <sup>3</sup> Jorge Ayora, *Obliteraciones de la primera emision de las estampillas Ecuatorianas en el period 1865-1872*. Typescript, privately printed, 1969.
- <sup>4</sup> Leo J. Harris, *Premier Vuelos y Vuelos Especiales de Ecuador* (Guayaquil: Club Filatelico de Guayaquil, 1977).
- <sup>5</sup> Hugo Goeggel's collection, which had won many important medals, was sold by Corinphila of Zurich in 2013.
- <sup>6</sup> Floyd Risvold's manuscript and philatelic collections were later sold, published in three elegant volumes, by Spink Shreve Galleries of New York in 2010.
- <sup>7</sup> Cécile Gruson and Leo J. Harris, *Guatemala, Three Hundred Years of Papel Sellado* (Detroit: The International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 1999).
- <sup>8</sup> *Los Correos Mayores de Yndias*, written by José Manuel Lopez Bernal, Cécile Gruso, Guillermo Gallegos, Yamil Dourit, Jr., Leoncio Mayer, Jesus Sitja, and Leo J. Harris was published as Vol. 23 of the series "Cuadernos Filatelias" by the Federacion Espanola de Sociedades Filatelicas in San Sebastian in 2014.

**A Note from the Typist:** My husband, who died January 25, wrote this article in 2011. Had he been able to add details covering the last half dozen years of his life he might have mentioned other events, people, and publications. In 2016, for example, he did attend the international stamp exhibit in New York, marking a fifty-year history. Two honors especially pleased him. The John Luff award from the APS was bestowed for his writing. He received his Luff ring at the Grand Rapids APS show in 2015. In the fall of 2016 a request came from a newly formed group of Ecuadorean collectors (The Ecuadorean Study Group) that he accept their request that he be named as their honorary president in gratitude for his writing about the postal history of their country so many years ago. I am sure that that nine year old boy would never have imagined the path that his father's suitcase of stamps had opened. I should add, as well, that our life together began with our honeymoon trip in 1956 that took us to Peru, Ecuador, Panama, and Cuba. Our last trip, in 2017, was to Merida, Mexico, with the Maya Society of Minnesota, of which he was the founding president.....Moira F. Harris.



John with, as he liked to joke, his favorite grandchild.

**Bob Bramwell addendum to Lists of Letters.** This receipt was for payment "in full" by Moses Seymour, Junior, the postmaster of Litchfield, Connecticut, of 12 shillings, or its equivalent of \$2, to Thomas Colier, proprietor of the *Litchfield Monitor* for publishing the List of Letters - which, for this period in 1804, was 44 lines. Bob went to the newspaper archives and found that these were 3 lines identifying the post office and date of the list, 40 names roughly in alphabetic order, and the postmaster's name. Importantly, the list shows that a total of 41 letters remained for the 40 addresses, so we can at least know that this arrangement was not based on two U.S. cents per letter - this was about 4<sup>1/2</sup> cents per line. Bob has corroboration that this arrangement between the Litchfield post office and the *Monitor* continued at this rate at least until 1806.



## Society Forum

This space is set aside for commentary, announcements, questions and other information by, for and about members of the Postal History Society. The editors welcome correspondence: Box 477, West Sand Lake NY 12196, <agatherin@yahoo.com>

### President's Message - Yamil Kouri

Sadly, our long time member and frequent collaborator to the PHJ, the distinguished postal historian Leo John Harris passed away this past January at the age of 82. John and I started corresponding in 1999 and quickly became good friends. We co-authored a number of articles, a book and, at the time of his passing, were working on another book on the Spanish mails in the present-day territory of the United States. John's contributions to the postal history of the Americas were enormous. He was truly a pioneer in the study of numerous areas of the Spanish colonial mail system, authoring dozens of articles and books resulting from his original research. John received the APS Luff award for distinguished philatelic research in 2015 and was the first U.S.-born person to be elected to the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History. Generations of philatelists will continue to benefit from his lasting works.

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**Barbara Ruth Mueller**, 1925-2016, was a frequent contributor to the *Postal History Journal*, and to virtually every other journal of note in the hobby, and won virtually every important prize. The adjective 'legendary' is often used to describe her role in philately, and she was memorably kind and generous to new collectors. She was member number 63 in our organization - with us from the beginning.

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Richard Handler, Director of the Program in Global Studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, is revising a paper he wrote with Laura Goldblatt, a junior scholar in American Studies, on the **iconography of Native Americans on U.S. postage stamps 1893-1925**. They welcome ideas from the collecting world: rh3y@eservices.virginia.edu.

Writing to our web site, a non-collector made a plea for the appropriate venue to sell a group of 41 letters written in German by a German officer to his sister in the U.S. from a French POW camp, 1946-1947. [alcoma.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:alcoma.stamps@gmail.com)

**The 2018 annual meeting of the Postal History Society will be held in conjunction with BALPEX August 31 to September 2.**

Congratulations to members who won awards at Philatelic Show in Boxborough in May, where we held our 2017 annual meeting - Board Members Sandeep Jaiswal (Large Gold for "British India, King George VI Postal Stationery") and Tim O'Connor (Large Gold Single-Frame for "Not Worth A Continental"). Murray Abramson won our Society's Grand and a Large Gold for "Expansion of U.S. Airmail to Foreign Destinations (1922-1941)." Mark Schwartz won the APS Single-Frame Grand and a Large Gold for "Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue." Other PHS medals: Carol Bommarito "Adhesive Stamp Usage on Transatlantic Mail to and from the U.S. (1840-1875) Vermeil; Stephen Suffet "Rates & Usages of the U.S. 1-cent Presidential Series Stamp, 1938-1958" Silver; William Shultz "5-cent Domestic Rates - U.S.P.O. Acts of 1845 and 1851, Stampless Era" Bronze.